伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

[9] 首幻想

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二●恐怖マンガCOLLECTION 9 首幻想

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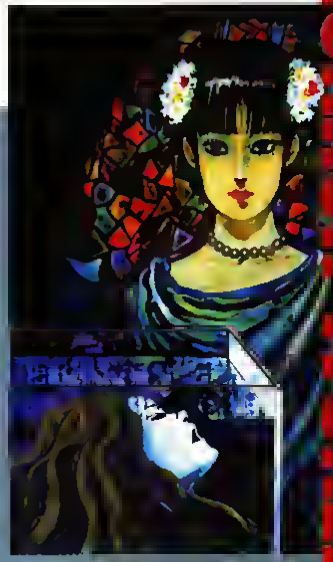

THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

[9] 首幻想

首幻想
生霊の沼
ペンフレンド
侵入者
押切異談
押切異談・塁

THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二・恐怖マンガCOLLECTION⑨ 首幻想

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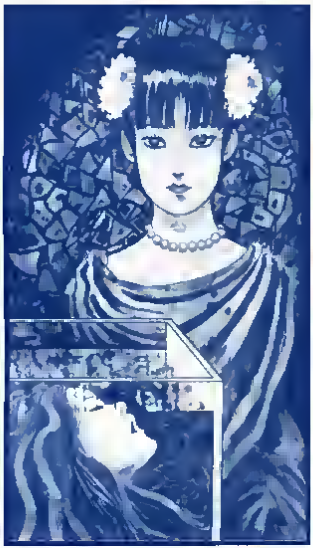

朝日ソノラマ

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SLEEP DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH, NAKAJIMA...

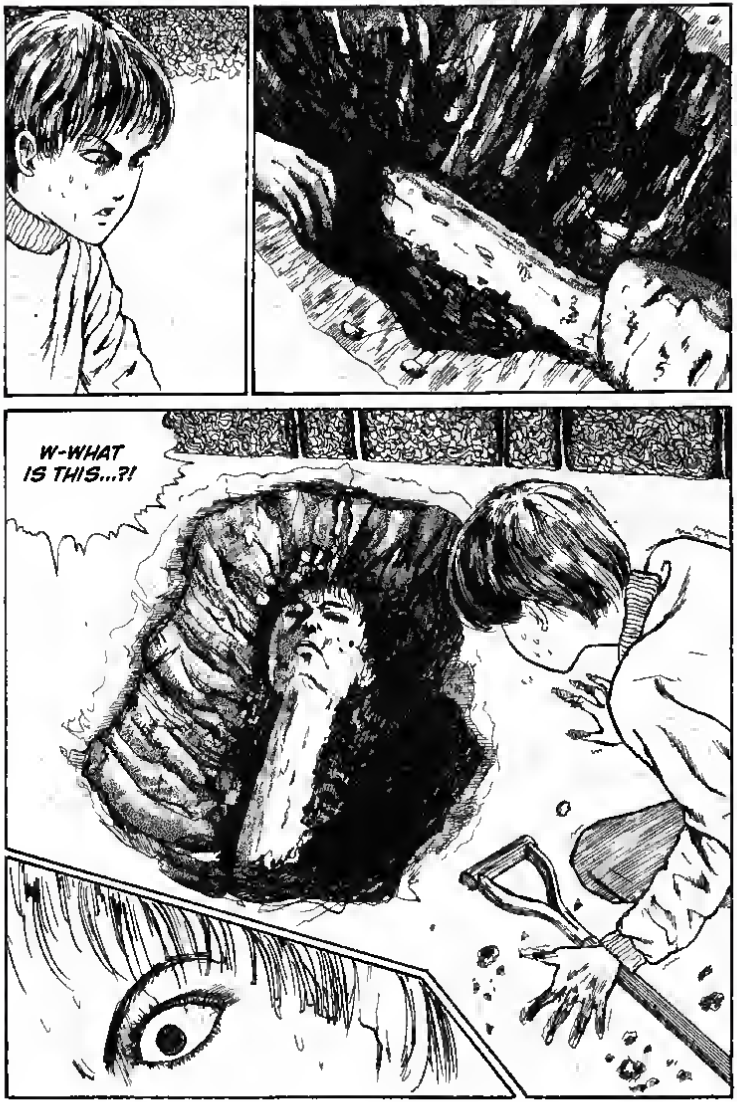
...AS I THOUGHT, I NEED TO REBURY HIM... MUCH DEEPER..

DIG

IT WAS BECAUSE HE GREW TALLER...
HIS HEIGHT SURPASSED MINE AND KEPT BECOMING TALLER
I KILLED MY BEST FRIEND NAKAJIMA LAST NIGHT. .
THE REASON WAS STUPID.
YOU SAW THAT I HADN'T GROWN AND TRIED TO CONSOLE ME.
YOU WERE SO COOL, NAKAJIMA...
EVEN THOUGH JUST A WHILE AGO, YOU WERE SHORT LIKE ME...
DIG

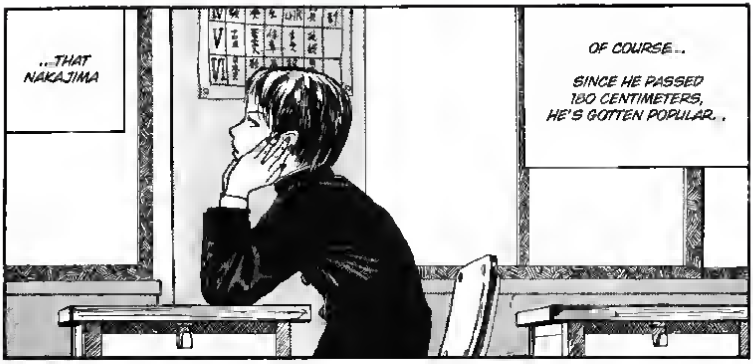
AS I THOUGHT, THIS IS TOO SHALLOW.
S-SO IN REALITY, I DID KILL YOU ..
NAKAJIMA'S CORPSE IS RIGHT HERE.
IT WASN'T A DREAM.
THE EVIDENCE...
IT'S JUST THAT IT FELT LIKE YOU PITIED ME...
I DIDN'T INTEND TO KILL YOU.
THUD!
THUNK!

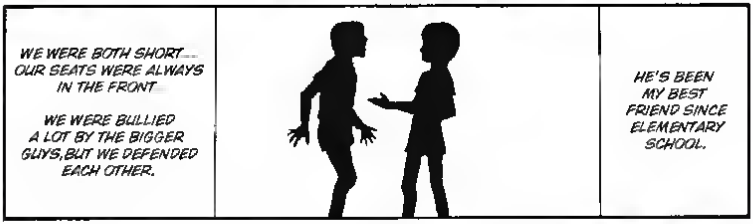
AH!
THUNK
IT WAS TOUGH
DID IT HURT?
SORRY.
...
DIG
DIG

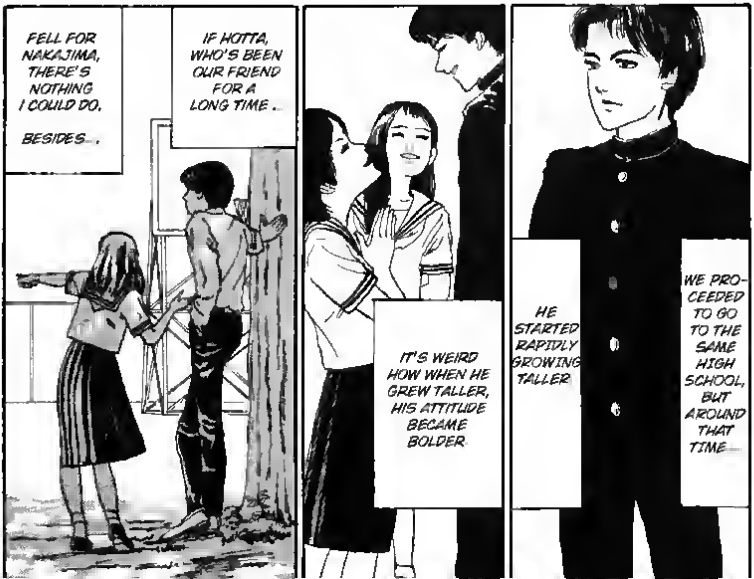

W-WHAT IS THIS...?!

BESIDES, THAT LENGTH WAS NOT NORMAL.
THERE'S NO WAY IT WAS REAL.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A CORPSE'S NECK STRETCHING
OSU
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WHAT WAS THAT LAST NIGHT?
I COVERED THE BODY WITH DIRT IN THE GARDEN WITHOUT THINKING, BUT...
I SAW AN ILLUSION BECAUSE I WAS TOO WORKED UP.
I WAS IN A STATE THAT MADE ME HALLUCINATE
...MY HEAD IS SHROUDED IN CHAOS.
WAS THAT REAL?
WAH!
I'LL CHECK IT OUT TONIGHT.
OSHIKIRI-KUN.

LAST NIGHT, I GOT A CALL FROM NAKAJIMA-KUN'S MOTHER.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, OSHIKIRI-KUN, IT'S TERRIBLE!
NAKAJIMA-KUN HAS GONE MISSING!
EH?
O-OH! IT'S JUST YOU, HOTTA
YOU SURPRISED ME
DON'T BE SO SURPRISED
NO WAY..
I'M WORRIED..
COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN HIMSELF IN AN ACCIDENT?
A-AH..
OUR HOUSE GOT ONE TOO..
A PHONE CALL..
THAT JUST MEANS SHE WAS THAT CLOSE TO NAKAJIMA ..
NAKAJIMA'S MOTHER CALLED HOTTA...
NO... NOTHING.
HEY OSHIKIRI-KUN, IS ANYTHING COMING TO YOUR MIND?


...THAT NAKAJIMA
OF COURSE...
SINCE HE PASSED 180 CENTIMETERS, HE'S GOTTEN POPULAR..

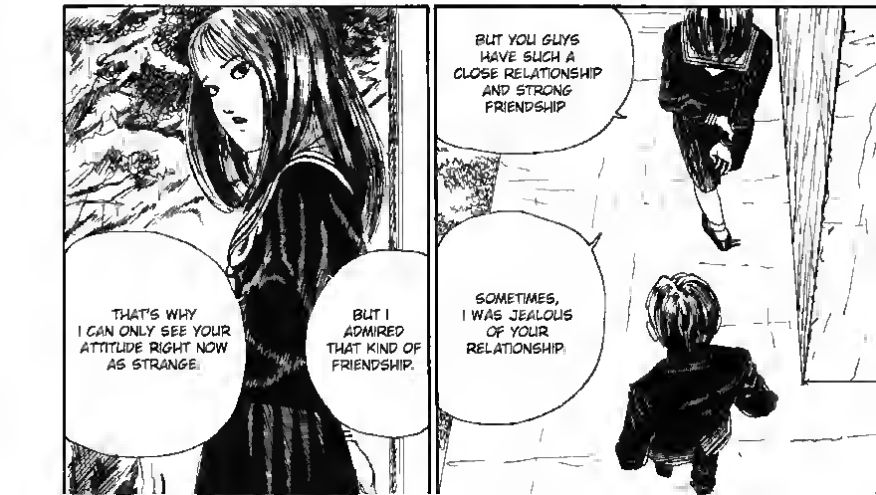

WE WERE BOTH SHORT... OUR SEATS WERE ALWAYS IN THE FRONT
WE WERE BULLIED A LOT BY THE BIGGER GUYS, BUT WE DEFENDED EACH OTHER.
HE'S BEEN MY BEST FRIEND SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.


FELL FOR NAKAJIMA, THERE'S NOTHING I COULD DO.
BESIDES...
IF HOTTA, WHO'S BEEN OUR FRIEND FOR A LONG TIME..
IT'S WEIRD HOW WHEN HE GREW TALLER, HIS ATTITUDE BECAME BOLDER
HE STARTED RAPIDLY GROWING TALLER
WE PROCEEDED TO GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL, BUT AROUND THAT TIME...

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT RIDICULOUS SPEED?
YEAH, EVEN I FIND IT UNSETTLING.
I GREW 20 CENTIMETERS IN ONE YEAR
AH.
A YEAR AGO YOU WERE ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT AS ME.
MY FEELINGS FOR HOTTA...
NAKAJIMA-KUN, YOU REALLY HAD A RAPID GROWTH SPURT
NO, I WAS JUST PASSING BY.
..HEY OSHIKIRI...
YOU WERE HERE.
...YEAH.
HE'LL GROW SOON, TOO.
I'M SURE.
SEE YOU, I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO.

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING?
YES!
HEY OSHIKIRI!
STOP THAT TERRIBLE ATTEMPT TO COMFORT ME.
...NO.
NAKAJIMA HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE SATURDAY.
YOU GUYS WERE CLOSE. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
OSHIKIRI-KUN

YOUR BEST FRIEND IS MISSING AND YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE WORRIED AT ALL.
OSHIKIRI-KUN
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WHAT IS IT, HOTTA?


THAT'S WHY I CAN ONLY SEE YOUR ATTITUDE RIGHT NOW AS STRANGE.
BUT I ADMIRED THAT KIND OF FRIENDSHIP.
BUT YOU GUYS HAVE SUCH A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND STRONG FRIENDSHIP
SOMETIMES, I WAS JEALOUS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP.

DON'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
HE COULD HAVE LEFT ON A JOURNEY ALONE
WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN THAT HE'S DEAD.
BUT EVEN IF YOU SAY HE'S MISSING, THERE ARE A LOT OF POSSIBLE SITUATIONS
I DON'T KNOW.
I DIDN'T SEE HIM SATURDAY
REALLY?
DO YOU REALLY NOT KNOW?
... IT'S JUST A POSSIBILITY.
I SAW NAKAJIMA-KUN ENTER YOUR HOUSE SATURDAY EVENING.
YOU'RE LYING!
!

I REALLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT NAKAJIMA.
HE'S MY COUSIN.
HE'S A COLLEGE STUDENT AND HE COMES OVER EVERY SATURDAY TO TUTOR ME.
IT WAS DARK OUT SO YOU WERE PROBABLY MISTAKEN.
TAKAYUKI-NII-SAN.
A-AH... THAT WAS...
PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
HOTTA!

STAY AWAY!
OSHIKIRI-KUN
UWAH!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
PAKON GYAH

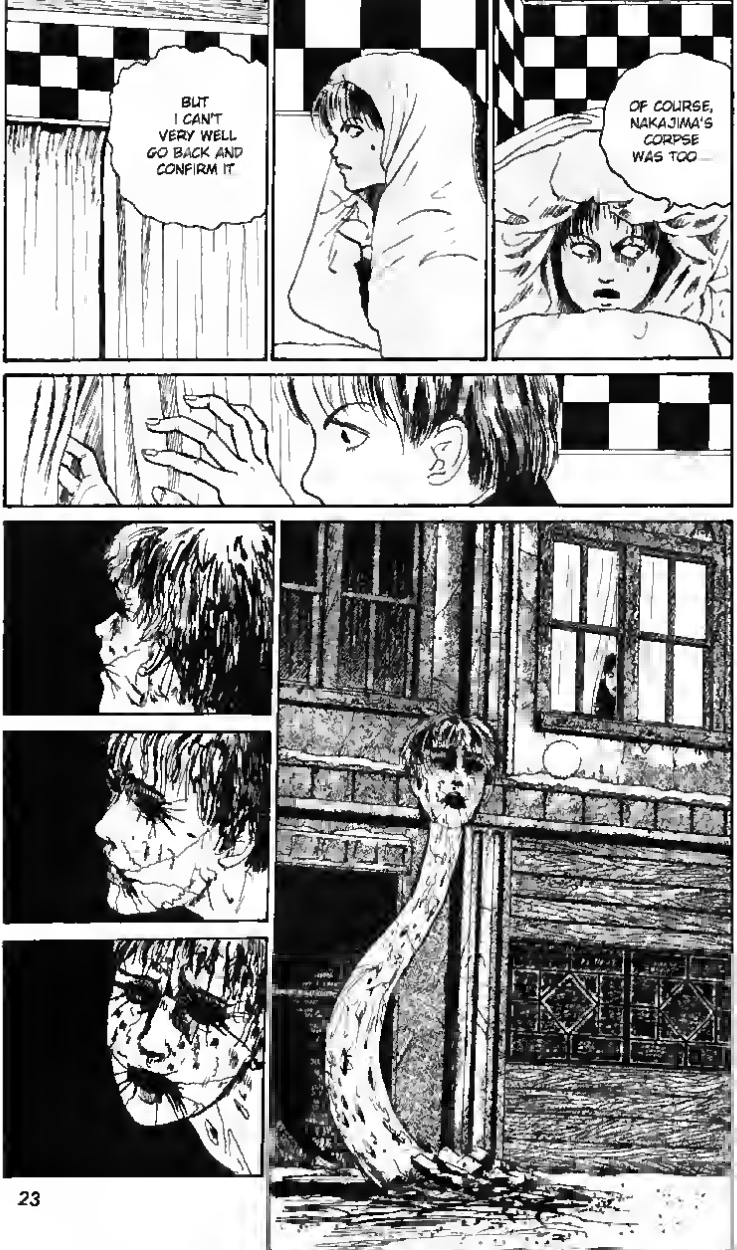
YOU BASTARD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HEY! STOP THAT!
W-WHAT IS THIS THING?
LOOK AT HER NECK!
LET GO OF ME!
SHE'S A GHOST!
PLEASE BELIEVE ME!!
HER NECK STRETCHED!
NO...
WHAT I'M SAYING IS TRUE!
THIS IS STRANGE...
GO GET THE TEACHER!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT ARE YOU DAYDREAMING ABOUT?!

YOU'RE USUALLY SO WELL-BEHAVED
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD INJURE A GIRL
WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A THING?
OSHIKIRI...
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D BELIEVE ME.
BUT I REALLY DID SEE THAT.
NO.
MAYBE IT WAS A HALLUCINATION.
YESTERDAY'S CORPSE, AND TODAY'S HOTTA.
I'M SORRY.
TAKAYUKI SAID THAT IT'S EASY TO SEE HALLUCINATIONS DURING SUCH TIMES.
BOTH OCCURED DURING THE TIMES WHEN MY HEART WAS AGITATED.
OSHIKIRI

WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT FOR?
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
DON
OSHIKIRI
UGUG UGUGU
JUST A BIT...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR NECK?
WELL, OSHIKIRI-KUN
OSHIKIRI! SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
WHY IS IT SO SHORT?
REALLY, WHAT HAPPENED?
LET GO!
...WILL BE FIXED BY ME!
WAH!

WOAH, WHAT IS THAT?!
HEY, LOOK!
HIS NECK IS SO SHORT! IT'S A MONSTER!
HIIIII-!
THEY'RE ALL HALLUCI-NATIONS!
IT'S A HALLUCI-NATION.
TREMBLING


BUT I CAN'T VERY WELL GO BACK AND CONFIRM IT
OF COURSE, NAKAJIMA'S CORPSE WAS TOO...

NO YOU CAN'T!
IT'S OKAY TO GO INTO YOUR CLUBROOM, RIIII-GHT?
OSHIKIRI!!-
WHISH!
I-I WONDER IF I'M GOING INSANE.

TONIGHT I'LL STAY AT TAKAYUKI-NII-SAN'S HOUSE
EVEN IF I KNOW IT WAS AN ILLUSION, IT FELT LIKE NAKAJIMA WAS GOING TO ENTER THE CLUBROOM, SO I COULDN'T STAY THERE ANY LONGER.
I RAN INTO THE STREETS AT NIGHT.
HAA HAA
MAYBE... I'VE GONE CRAZY.
EVEN IF IT IS A HALLUCINATION, IT'S RARE FOR NECKS TO STRETCH.
I SEE.

THIS PROBABLY STEMS FROM YOUR SENSE OF ISOLATION AND YOUR COMPLEX
NO... I'M STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY IN COLLEGE SO I KNOW THERE'S AN EXPLANATION
YOU'RE NOT AN ALCOHOLIC, AND YOU'RE NOT ON DRUGS
AND IF YOU'RE SLEEPING PROPERLY...
MY SENSE OF ISOLATION AND MY COMPLEX?
YOUR DISTRESS OVER YOUR HEIGHT
THESE PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS ALL PILED UP SO YOU SAW HALLUCINATIONS OF OTHERS' HEIGHT STRETCHING
YOUR PARENTS ARE OVERSEAS FOR WORK
YOU'RE LIVING ALONE IN THAT HUGE MANSION
THIS FEELING OF LONELINESS AND...
ALTHOUGH IT'S WEIRD THAT IT'S JUST THE NECK.
NECK, HUH...?

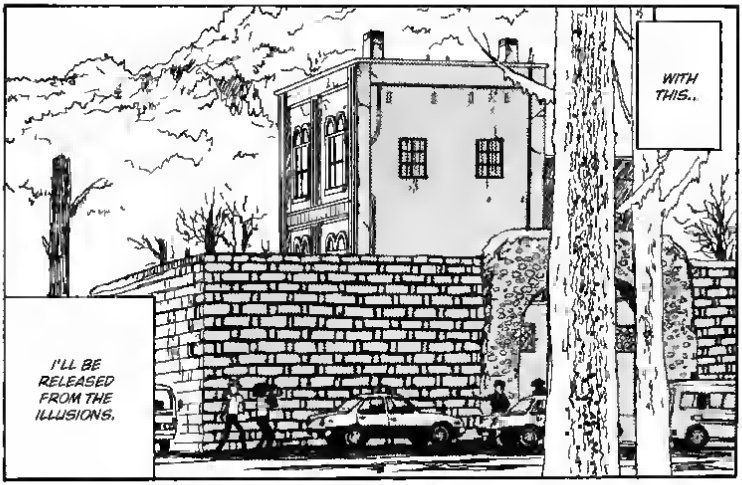
UNTIL YOUR PARENTS RETURN TO JAPAN
WHY DON'T YOU STAY AT THIS HOUSE?
TOORU
OUR DAD IS ALWAYS SAYING YOU SHOULD
THUD
OW.
WELL IT DEPENDS ON YOUR DECISION

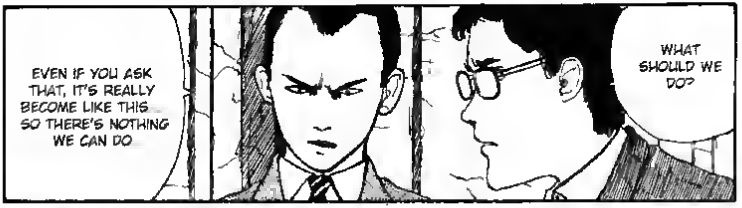
RIGHT NOW I'M SEEING A HALLUCI-NATION!
WHAT?!
TAKAYUKI-NII-SAN!
WHY IS THIS CEILING SO LOW?
DOES MY NECK LOOK LONG TO YOU?!
CUT IT OUT!

IS TO CHECK NAKAJIMA'S BODY.
THE WAY TO RESOLVE THESE HALLUCINATIONS
HEEEEY TOORU, WHAT'S WRONG?!
I JUST HAVE TO CONFIRM THAT IT REALLY WAS JUST A NORMAL CORPSE...
THAT WAS A VISUAL HALLUCINATION.
EVERYTHING STARTED ON THAT NIGHT.
PANTING
I'LL CONTINUE TO SEE THESE ILLUSIONS
AS LONG AS I HAVE ANY POSSIBILITY OF DOUBT...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
NAKA-JIMA!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
THIS HAPPENED IN JUST 2 DAYS.
OSHIKIRI..
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'VE BECOME THIS FORM.
HUHUHUHU
I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU STRANGLED ME

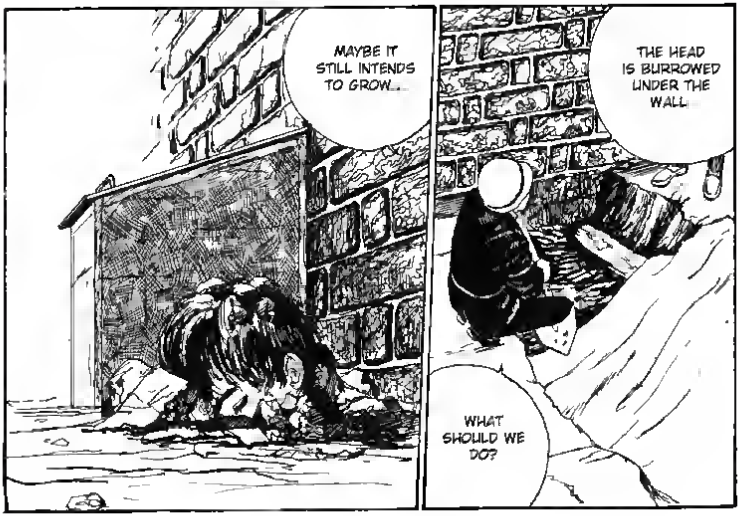
WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.
IT SEEMS LIKE AFTER THAT, I LOST MY SANITY.
I CONFESSED EVERYTHING.
SOON, A DETECTIVE CAME.
THAT'S NOT UNREASONABLE. THE HALLUCINATIONS DIDN'T MATTER.
THE DETECTIVE LISTENED WITH SUSPICION ON HIS FACE BUT..
AND THE CORPSE WILL BE PROPERLY BURIED.
SOON, THE GARDEN WILL BE DUG UP.
BECAUSE I'M THE CRIMINAL WHO MURDERED NAKAJIMA.
AND ONLY THAT IS THE REALITY.


WITH THIS..
I'LL BE RELEASED FROM THE ILLUSIONS.

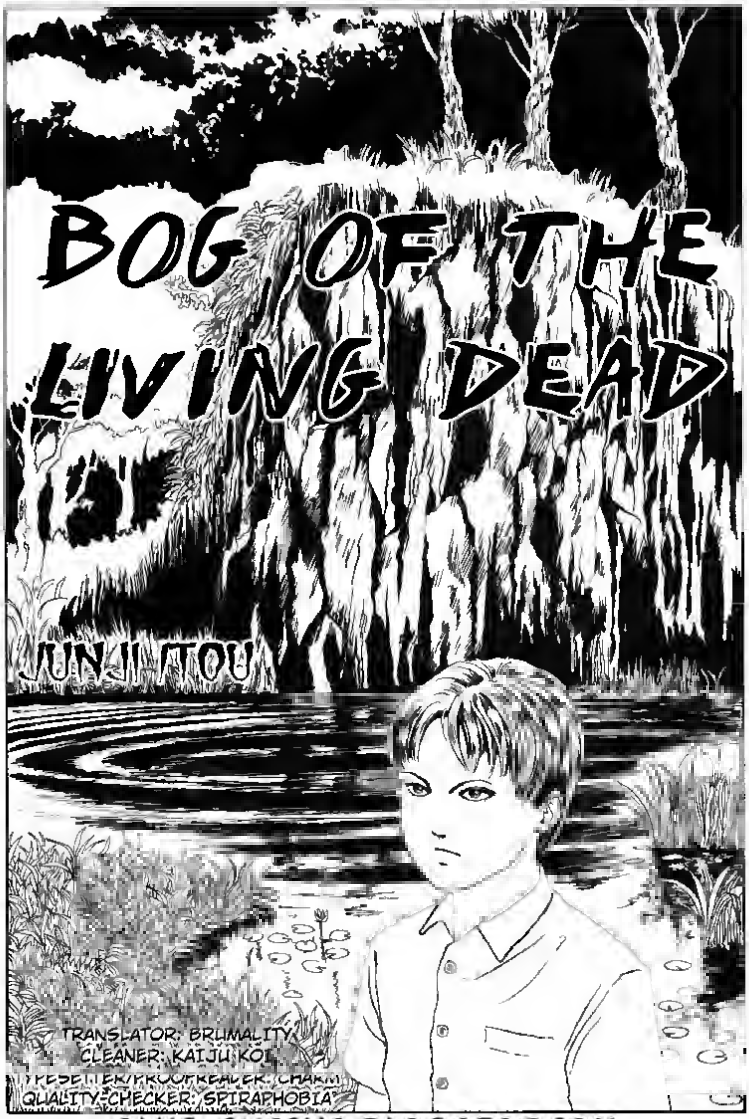

EVEN IF YOU ASK THAT, IT'S REALLY BECOME LIKE THIS SO THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

IT SEEMS THAT BOY ONLY SAW THE NECK.
IT WAS ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

WHAT'S THE CAUSE?
IS THIS KIND OF THING POSSIBLE?
IT'S A PRESENT-DAY MYSTERY.
THIS WOULDN'T EVEN FIT IN A TANKER.
JUST HOW MANY METERS IS THIS?


MAYBE IT STILL INTENDS TO GROW...
THE HEAD IS BURROWED UNDER THE WALL
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

THE END



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UGH, SO MUCH TRASH I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING IN THE COMMITTEE.
YEAH... IT DEFINITELY LOOKS LIKE THE TYPE OF PLACE WHERE GHOSTS WOULD LIKELY SHOW UP.
LIKE THE GHOST OF A WOMAN WHO'D DRAG IN A YOUNG MAN. .

OSHIKIRI FROM SECOND YEAR CLASS B, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOUR PARTNER?
AT THE FIRST UPPERCLASSMEN COMMITTEE MEETING, THREE PEOPLE WERE ABSENT WITHOUT WARNING.
OH..
AFTER THIS I WANT TO DISCUSS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UPPERCLASSMEN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, BUT BEFORE THAT..
SO THEN, TATE KOZUE FROM SECOND YEAR CLASS B AND AND SOGA YUMIKO FROM SECOND YEAR CLASS F, WHY WEREN'T YOU HERE?
KOJIMA'S SOCCER CLUB MATCH IS COMING UP, SO HE WENT TO PRACTICE
YEAH... HE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE IT'S GETTING CLOSE
LACK OF MOTIVATION!!
A COMPLETE...
..SAME WITH ME...
AH... I HAD ANOTHER COMMITMENT...

ON THE NEXT ACTIVITY DAY, I WANT TO GET STARTED ON CLEANING IT UP WITHOUT DELAY.
AH, AND THEN .. SINCE THERE'S BEEN A REPORT THAT THE SWAMP BEHIND THE SCHOOL HAS BECOME ABSOLUTELY FILTHY ..
WELL THEN, AS FOR THE MATTER OF THE ACTIVITIES, WE WILL BEGIN BY INSPECTING THE CLEANING TOOLS OF EACH CLASSROOM..
IF KOJIMA-KUN HAS TO COME, WE WILL TOO, RIGHT?
UH... THAT SWAMP?
AT ANY RATE, CLEANING UP THE SWAMP WILL BE THE FIRST JOB OF THE UPPER-CLASSMEN
VICE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN! IT'S NOT AS IF GHOSTS COME OUT DURING THE DAY, RIGHT?
THERE ARE RUMORS THAT GHOSTS APPEAR OVER THERE ..
..COM-MITTEE CHAIR-MAN..
ガヤ ガヤ
BUT... WHO WAS THE GUY WHO MADE THIS STRANGE REPORT?
BECAUSE, I NORMALLY NEVER GO OVER THERE

GO FOR IT!
EEEK!
KOJIMA-KUN!
NICE SHOT!
EEE!
バフ
THAT GUY IS KOJIMA'S FRIEND. HE'S NAMED OSHIKIRI.
IS THAT GUY A GROUPIE TOO?
HE EVEN HAS GROUPIES. AS IF HE WAS A TV IDOL OR SOMETHING.
YEAH. IT'S SO ANNOYING. I DON'T EVEN TRY ANYMORE
MAN, IT'S SO HARD TO COMPETE! EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT EVEN A REAL MATCH YET.

I'M KOZUE, AND SHE'S YUMIKO.
HEY NEWBIES! THE TWO OF US ARE KOJIMA-KUN'S ORIGINAL GROUPIES!
SO IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT?
SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL, WE'VE BEEN FANS OF KOJIMA-KUN.
UH . YOU'RE ON THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, AREN'T YOU?
OH, OSHIKIRI-KUN!
YEAH WE ARE, BUT—
WOW— THAT'S SO COOL!
UH, CLEAN UP THE SWAMP? NO WAY—
AND, SINCE WE'RE CLEANING UP THE SWAMP NEXT TIME, GET SOME EXERCISE CLOTHES.
IT'S A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. HE SAYS DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING...

EEEE! KOJIMA-SAN IS LOOKING THIS WAY!
WAIT FOR ME! I'LL JUST CHANGE MY CLOTHES AFTER THE CLUB MEETING IS FINISHED!
OKAY.
HE'S SO AWESOME—HE LOOKS LIKE A PRINCE!
HEY OSHIKIRI!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HM, WELL, JUST ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES WE WOULD DO, BUT...
OSHIKIRI, SORRY I COULDN'T MAKE THE COMMITTEE MEETING. WHAT DID THEY TALK ABOUT?
HE'S COME THIS FAR WITH CHARISMA ALONE.
IT'S KOJIMA FROM CLASS B, SINCE HE'S GOOD-LOOKING, HE'S REALLY POPULAR..

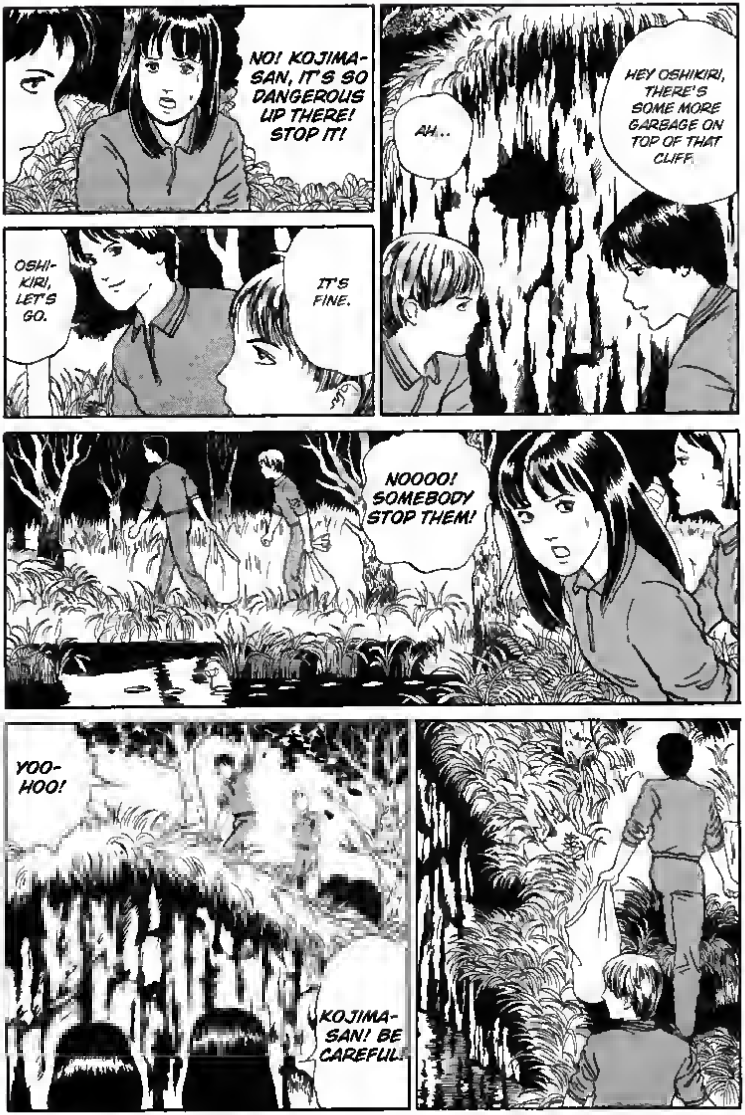
KOJIMA-SAN, PLEASE DON'T!
WHAT? TO THE SWAMP?!
BUT NEXT MEETING WE'RE GOING TO CLEAN UP THE SWAMP.
IS THAT SO .. I'M DEFINITELY COMING THIS TIME
A HANDSOME GUY LIKE YOU WILL DEFINITELY BE TARGETED!
GOING NEAR THAT SWAMP IS DANGER-OUS!
WHAT? ...THAT WAS THIS SWAMP?!
A LONG TIME AGO, A WOMAN WHO WAS ABANDONED BY HER LOVER COMMITTED SUICIDE IN THAT SWAMP. NOW HER GHOST DRAGS PEOPLE IN.
JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, I HEARD A MAN DROWNED. AND HIS BODY NEVER CAME UP..
AND HE WAS REALLY HANDSOME TOO...

KOJIMA-SAN... I'M WORRIED... NEXT TIME IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T PARTICIPATE.
AHAHA.
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S TRUE.
IS THAT .. IS THAT A TRUE STORY?
BESIDES, IF I HEAR THAT KIND OF STORY, I'M THE TYPE TO TAKE IT AS A CHALLENGE.
BUT...
I'M NOT GOING TO DROWN OR ANYTHING.
IT'S FINE! WHO CARES IF THERE'S A "GHOST"?
WELL THEN.
WE HAVE TO PROTECT HIM
BUT I'M WORRIED!
ME TOO
ME TOO
WELL THEN, EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT PART OF THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THEM.

SEEMS TO BE KOJIMA'S GROUP-IES.
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS LINE OF PEOPLE?
AND SO THE CLEANING DAY HAS ARRIVED
SOME-HOW I DON'T EXPECT THEY WILL
IF THEY HELPED OUT, I'D BE HAPPY TO, BUT...
OKAY!
...WELL THEN, AS I INSTRUCTED A WHILE BACK, GET STARTED ON YOUR SHARE OF THE WORK.

IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE HAS TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE!
MAN, WHO THE HELL MADE SUCH A HUGE MESS?
SHUT UP!! IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP OUT, GO BACK HOME!
YEAH, YEAH! MR. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MAKE HIM STOP!
NO WAY! DON'T MAKE KOJIMA-SAN PICK UP TRASH, IT DOESN'T SUIT HIM!
DON'T YOU THINK SO, VICE CHAIRMAN?
UH.
HAHAHA. FROM THE GHOST OF THE SWAMP?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M THE TYPE WHO WOULD BE TARGETED TOO. I THINK I'M A GOOD MATCH FOR KOJIMA.
WE'RE NOT DOING THAT. WE MUST PROTECT KOJIMA-SAN.

IF IT AP-PEARS...
IT MIGHT BE A GHOST, IT MIGHT BE SOME-THING ELSE.
I'M ALSO MAKING A POINT NOT TO GO NEAR THERE, BUT...
NO, IF I TRY GOING THERE NOW, NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN, RIGHT?
NO... IS IT OKAY TO DO THAT?
ドボン
TRY COMING OUT NOW!
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.


NO! KOJIMA-SAN, IT'S SO DANGEROUS UP THERE! STOP IT!
AH...
HEY OSHIKIRI, THERE'S SOME MORE GARBAGE ON TOP OF THAT CLIFF.
OSHI-KIRI, LET'S GO.
IT'S FINE.
NOOOO! SOMEBODY STOP THEM!
YOO-HOO!
KOJIMA-SAN! BE CAREFUL!

OH?
WOW! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
KOJIMA-SAN!
KYAAH!!
O... OSHI-KIRI...
AAH-

AAAAH!
KOJIMA!
KO-
JIMA!
KOJIMA!
AAAAAH!!

IS HE OKAY?!
KOJI-MAAAA!!!
NOO! KOJIMA-SAN!!
HE'S... IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S COMING UP! HE'S DROWNING!
WAIT! I'LL HELP HIM!
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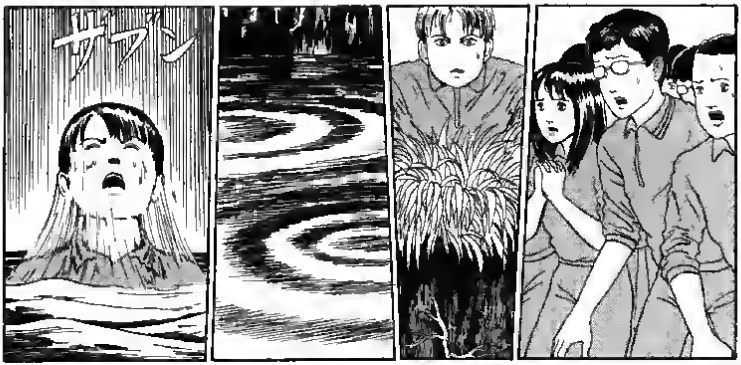
COMMIT-TEE CHAIR-MAN! QUICK, HELP HIM!
I... I CAN'T SWIM.
ザーン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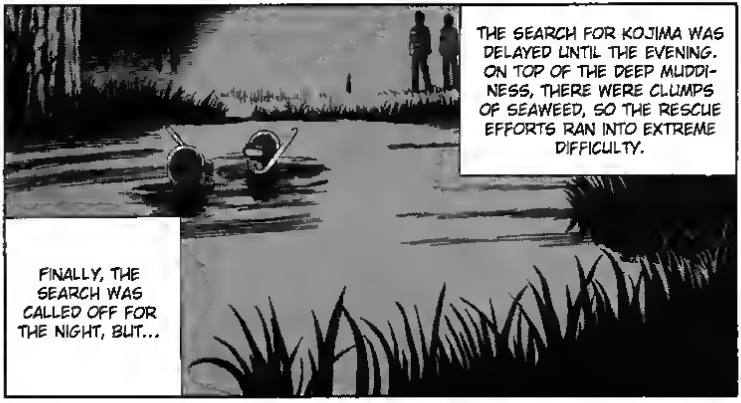
KOJIMA-KUN!!
NO!!
IT'S BAD!! IT'S SO MUDDY I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!


THE SEARCH FOR KOJIMA WAS DELAYED UNTIL THE EVENING. ON TOP OF THE DEEP MUDDINESS, THERE WERE CLUMPS OF SEAWEED, SO THE RESCUE EFFORTS RAN INTO EXTREME DIFFICULTY.
FINALLY, THE SEARCH WAS CALLED OFF FOR THE NIGHT, BUT...

AS IS INEVITABLE, VARIOUS RUMORS BEGAN TO CIRCULATE AROUND THE SCHOOL.
I WONDER IF RIGHT NOW KOJIMA'S BODY IS BEING EMBRACED BY THE GHOST OF THE WOMAN.
STOP THAT! IT'S CREEPY.
EVEN AFTERWARDS, KOJIMA'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND.
SO THE RUMORS WERE TRUE.
AAH... HE WAS ENTRANCED BY THE GHOST.
LAST NIGHT, I WAS PASSING BY NEAR THERE.
IT WAS DEFINITELY A SPIRIT!
WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
HEY .. I SAW A SPIRIT AT THE SWAMP!
A SPIRIT?
APART FROM THAT, THERE WERE STORIES LIKE PEOPLE HEARING A WOMAN CALLING KOJIMA'S NAME FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SWAMP.
AND RUMORS OF PEOPLE SEEING HIS GHOST FLEW WILDLY ABOUT.
THE RUMORS ABOUT SPIRITS LIKE THE ONE HE SAW WERE IN NO SMALL NUMBERS.
IT CAME TO BE SAID THAT THEY MUST BE KOJIMA'S.

EVERYONE'S SPREADING RUMORS.
MORE THAN I HAD EXPECTED
BUT NO WAY THAT THERE'S A GHOST.
BUT THIS DEEP GRIEF IS REALLY SPREADING. LIKE WITH THOSE TWO...
THOSE GIRLS DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
KOJIMA MAY STILL BE ALIVE..
ALL ACCORDING TO PLAN.
THE CONVERSATION KOJIMA AND I HAD, WAS THE BEGINNING.
THAT DAY, WE SUCCESSFULLY ESCAPED HIS GROUPIES AND WENT TO HIS HOUSE. ONCE IN A WHILE WE WANTED TO TALK JUST US GUYS.
WHAT THE HELL IS IT ABOUT ME THAT ATTRACT THEM LIKE THIS?
I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA! THEY'RE SO STRANGE!
AT THAT TIME, I WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE SOME FUN OF KOJIMA, AND THE TOPIC OF HIS GROUPIES CAME UP.. BUT...
I WAS SURPRISED BY KOJIMA'S ATTITUDE.
R-REALLY...

THOSE TWO ARE ABNORMAL WITH THEIR TENACITY...
THE PROBLEM IS KOZUE AND YUMIKO... THE OTHER ONES JUST GO ALONG WITH THEM.
THIS ISN'T A JOKE! THEY'RE LITTERLY IN LOVE WITH ME. FROM DAWN 'TIL DUSK, THEY'RE THERE IN GROUPS... I'M NO TV IDOL!
I DON'T KNOW. I THOUGHT YOU'D BE REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT.
EXCEPT... JUST RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH. HOW COULD I GET AWAY COMPLETELY...?
IF I COULD GET AWAY FROM THOSE TWO, I'M EVEN WILLING TO RUN AWAY FROM HOME. I'M PREPARED.
EVEN WHEN I TRY TO AVOID THEM, THEY EAGERLY COME ALONG. THEY INTEND TO KEEP FOLLOWING ME MY WHOLE LIFE.
NO MATTER WHERE I GO, THEY SNIFF ME OUT AND FOLLOW. EVEN IF I PLAN A SECRET TRIP, THEY END UP FOLLOWING ME FROM START TO FINISH.
BUT WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HAPPENED THEN?
IF IT'S THAT BAD, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO TELL THOSE TWO DIRECTLY?
I DID TELL THEM... WHEN WE WERE IN JUNIOR HIGH.
YOU'VE REALLY THOUGHT THIS OVER... BUT AREN'T YOU EXAGGERATING A LITTLE?
HEY, HEY! ...WAIT A SECOND!
THERE'S NO WAY BUT FOR ME TO PRETEND TO DIE. CAN YOU HELP ME, OSHIKIRI?

BY THE WAY, I LIKE KOZUE-CHAN MORE... BUT IN ANY CASE...
ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, YOU'RE NORMAL, CUTE GIRLS, AREN'T YOU?
OR HE MAY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN A NEW LIFE. I WONDER IF I'LL HEAR FROM HIM, BUT...
I THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE OR SOMETHING, BUT GODDAMN HE ACTUALLY DID IT.
IT RATHER SHOOK UP EVERYONE, BUT KOJIMA MUST BE ON A JOURNEY BY NOW TO FIND A COMPLETELY NEW WORLD.
KOJIMA PRETENDED TO DROWN IN THE SWAMP AND RAN OFF, AND THEN RAN AWAY FROM HOME . I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS

NO ENTRY
TWO STUDENTS... IN THE SWAMP...
WHAT'S GOING ON, TAKAHASHI-SENSEI?!
OH GOD!
OH GOD!

THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT—THESE ARE THE TWO WHO WENT MISSING A FEW DAYS AGO.
ガヤガヤ
NO! ME TOO!
I HEARD THE VICE CHAIRMAN THREW A ROCK INTO THERE!
THIS IS NO JOKE... I PARTICIPATED IN IT TOO!
DID YOU HEAR? IT WAS THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN!
WHAT? THEY WERE INVOLVED IN THE SWAMP CLEANUP, WEREN'T THEY?!
BUT HOW CAN THREE PEOPLE DYING BE JUST A COINCIDENCE?
DON'T WORRY. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A CURSE!
OSHIKIRI... WILL IT BE OKAY? WE WERE BOTH ON THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE...

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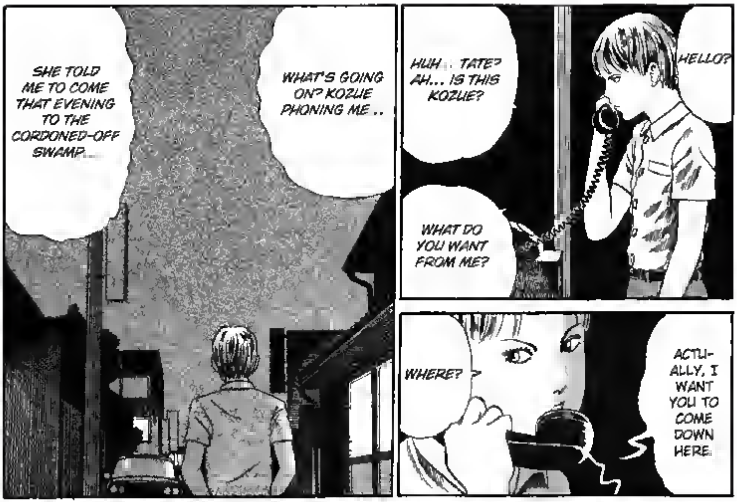
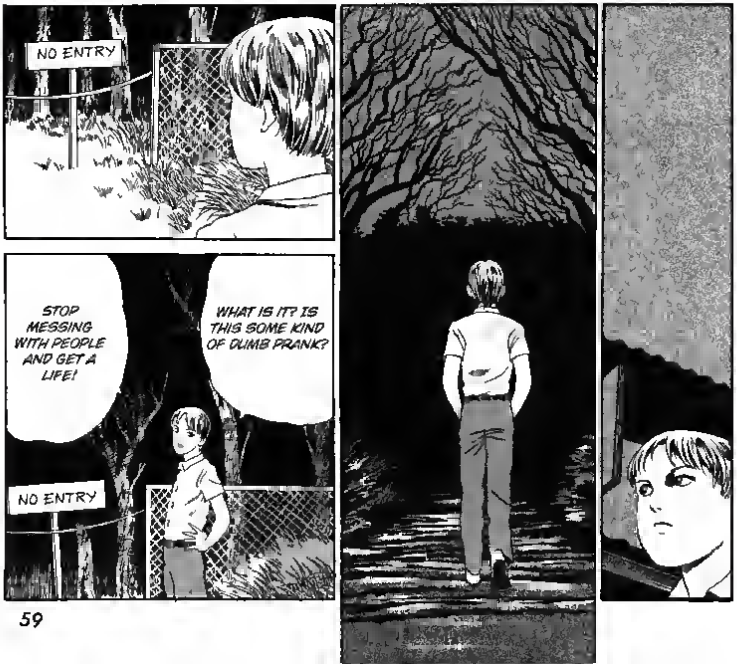
TWO PEOPLE DYING AT THE SAME TIME...
WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON HERE?
IT'S PROB-ABLY KOJIMA
I WONDER IF HE'S ALRIGHT


SHE TOLD ME TO COME THAT EVENING TO THE CORDONED-OFF SWAMP...
WHAT'S GOING ON? KOZUE PHONING ME..
HELLO?
HUH... TATE? AH... IS THIS KOZUE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
ACTU-ALLY, I WANT YOU TO COME DOWN HERE.
WHERE?


NO ENTRY
STOP MESSING WITH PEOPLE AND GET A LIFE!
WHAT IS IT? IS THIS SOME KIND OF DUMB PRANK?
NO ENTRY

OSHIKIRI-KUN, WE'RE SO HAPPY YOU CAME

COME HERE.
I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU!
....WHAT? YOU WERE THERE ALL ALONG?

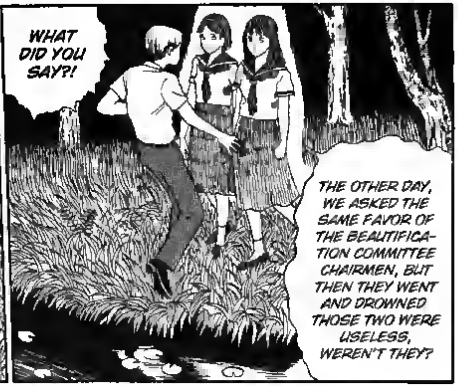
WE'RE SORRY.. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, WE HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY DID YOU CALL ME TO THIS PLACE?
A FAVOR?
WHAT IN THE WORLD..

RIGHT, OSHIKIRI-KUN? DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS FEELING? KOJIMA-KUN WAS OUR EVERYTHING.
HOW IMPORTANT KOJIMA-KUN'S EXISTENCE WAS TO US...
THE SWAMP TOOK KOJIMA-KUN FROM US, AND EVERY DAY IT HURTS US MORE AND MORE...
I UNDERSTAND. I UNDERSTAND, BUT..
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
WE WANT YOU TO FIND KOJIMA-KUN... DIVE INTO THE SWAMP..
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... THE SEARCH PARTY LOOKED LONG AND HARD FOR HIM AND DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING.
THERE'S NO CHANCE OF ME FINDING HIM!
AT THE VERY LEAST WE JUST WANT HIS BODY RETURNED TO US!
IT'S NOT A JOKE!
IS THIS A JOKE?
DIVE INTO THE SWAMP?!

BECAUSE WE LOVED HIM.
WE CAN'T GIVE UP..
D-DON'T COME NEAR ME!

PLEASE, FIND HIM FOR US.
YOU'RE WRONG!

SO, THEIR DEATHS WERE YOUR DOING...
バシャッ


WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
THE OTHER DAY, WE ASKED THE SAME FAVOR OF THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, BUT THEN THEY WENT AND DROWNED THOSE TWO WERE USELESS, WEREN'T THEY?

HAVE... HAVE YOU TWO LOST YOUR MINDS?!

ハァ…

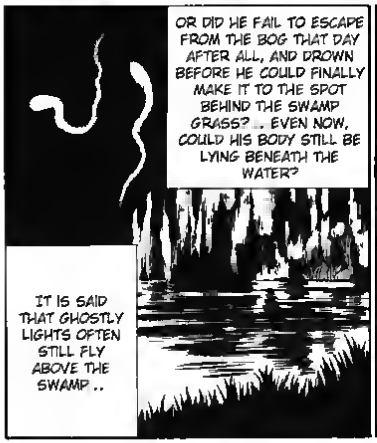
NOT EVEN YOU PLEASE, DIVE DOWN UNTIL YOU FIND HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT... BECAUSE NO ONE CAN DISOBEY US.

KOJIMA ISN'T DEAD!
YOU'RE WRONG!
WAIT!
THAT DAY, KOJIMA SWAM ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THE SWAMP WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH, EMERGED BEHIND THE GRASS OVER THERE, AND THEN HE RAN.
HE ONLY PRETENDED THAT HE DROWNED. THAT'S WHY NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY LOOKED, THEY COULDN'T TURN UP ANYTHING!
HUH?!
YOU'RE MAKING IT ALL UP!! IF HE IS STILL ALIVE LIKE YOU SAY HE IS, DO YOU HAVE ANY DEFINITE PROOF?
IT'S NOT A LIE! THE FACT THAT THEY DIDN'T FIND HIS BODY PROVES IT, RIGHT?
SO HE'S ALIVE! YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY!
YOU'RE LYING.

DID YOU EVEN SEE HIM GET OUT OF THE SWAMP AND RUN AWAY?
NO.. BUT...
KOJIMA-KUN'S BODY IS LYING HERE NOW..
WHEREVER HE IS, WE KNOW IN-STANTLY.
THAT'S IDIOTIC.. THERE'S NO WAY!
THERE'S NO WAY HE DROWNED!
HE RAN AWAY BECAUSE HE HATED YOU TWO!!
OSHIKIRI!!
AAAH!!
AAH!

WHAT IS THAT?!
AH!
LISTEN TO ME. AND DON'T LAUGH—I OSHIKIRI WAS HAUNTED BY THOSE SPIRITS!
THEIR SO-CALLED LIVING-DEAD SPIRITS, BORN FROM THEIR VENGEANCE.
FIREBALLS OF HATRED WHIRLED UP FROM THE TOPS OF THEIR HEADS AND INTO THE SKY.
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED THEN?

AND SO A TERRIFYING NIGHT PASSED, AND AS IT GREW LIGHT, THE WRAITHS DISAPPEARED.



OR DID HE FAIL TO ESCAPE FROM THE BOG THAT DAY AFTER ALL, AND DROWN BEFORE HE COULD FINALLY MAKE IT TO THE SPOT BEHIND THE SWAMP GRASS?... EVEN NOW, COULD HIS BODY STILL BE LYING BENEATH THE WATER?

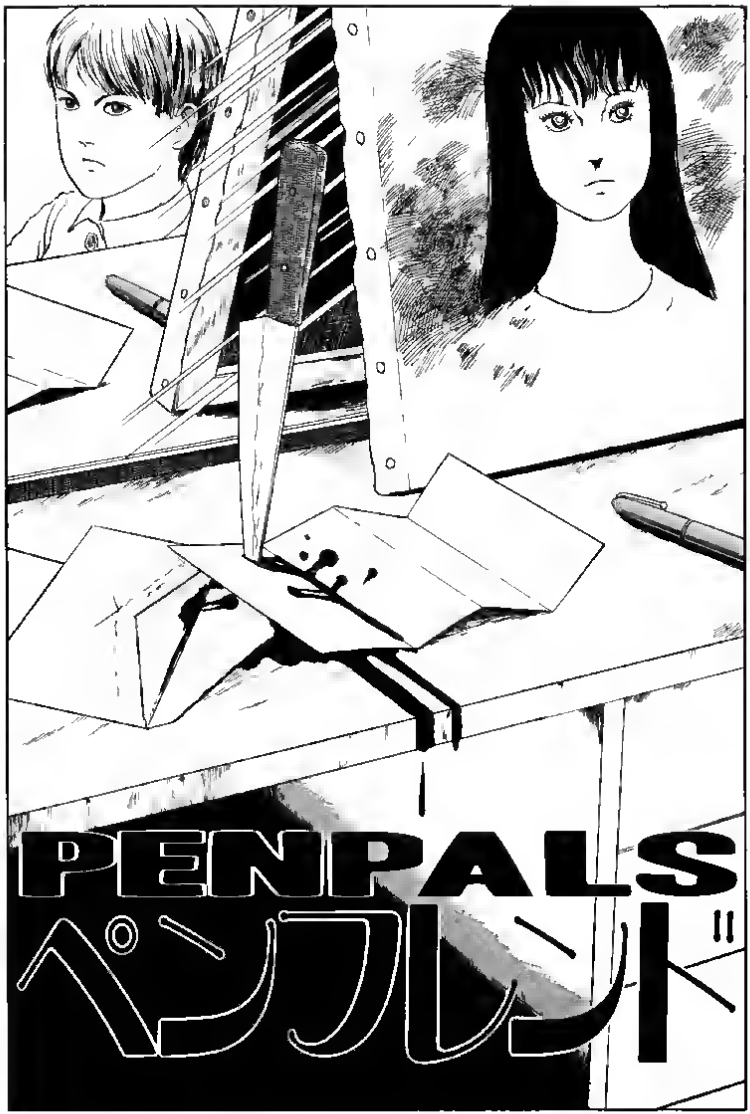
IT IS SAID THAT GHOSTLY LIGHTS OFTEN STILL FLY ABOVE THE SWAMP..

AND BY THE WAY... WHAT ON EARTH HAS BECOME OF KOJIMA?

EVEN NOW, THERE HAS BEEN NO CONTACT FROM HIM... DID HE GET INVOLVED IN SOME TROUBLE AFTER HE RAN AWAY? OR...

AFTER HIS NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH, OSHIKIRI NEVER WENT BACK THERE, THOUGH THE TWO GIRLS CALLED HIM MANY TIMES.

THE END


PENPALS
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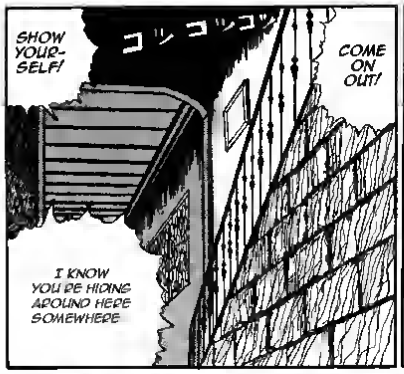
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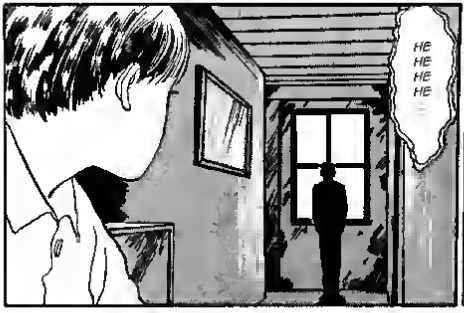
SHOW YOURSELF!
COME ON OUT!
I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE

WHERE... WHERE ARE YOU...


HE HE HE HE...

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
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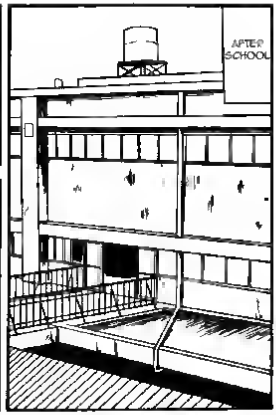
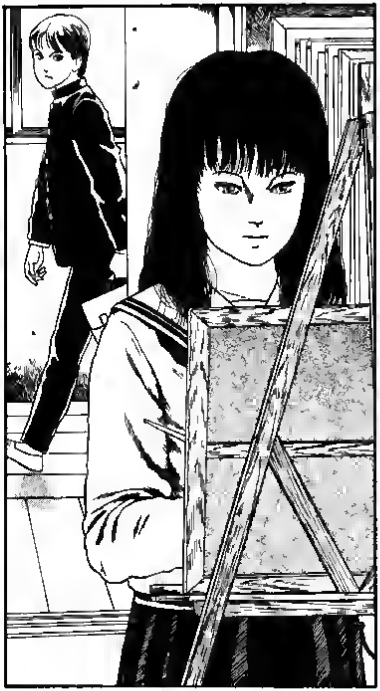
UAHH!
AH!
I AM THE REAL OSHIKIRI TORU!

I'VE BEEN HAVING REALLY STRANGE DREAMS LATELY...
THESE WEIRD, VIVID DREAMS
IN TRUTH, IT'S PROBABLY DUE TO THIS ENORMOUS HOUSE. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THERE REALLY WAS SOMEONE LURKING AROUND IN THE SHADOWS
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES AT NIGHT WHEN I'VE CAUGHT A GLANCE OF MY FACE IN THE MIRROR AND SCARED MYSELF HALF TO DEATH...
LIVING ALL ALONE IN A GIANT MANSION, MILES FROM CIVILIZATION, CAN REALLY TAKE A TOLL ON ONE'S SANITY
MOTHER AND FATHER ARE BOTH OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON BUSINESS...
I'VE ALWAYS QUITE ENJOYED SOLITUDE, BUT EVEN I SOMETIMES BECOME TERRIBLY MELANCHOLY
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, ALL I CAN DO IS FIND A GIRLFRIEND IN THE HOPE THAT SHE CAN CONSOLE MY LONELY HEART
WHAT TO DO? THIS SCHOOL IS LOUSY WITH COUPLES... BUT I WONDER, IS THERE A GIRL WHO WOULD GO OUT WITH A MIDGET LIKE ME?

I THOUGHT MY NECK WAS FEELING A LITTLE COLD
AH, SHOOT... I LEFT MY MUFFLER IN THE CLASSROOM


AFTER SCHOOL

美術室



THAT S DEFINITELY SATOMI FROM CLASS E
SHE S AT IT AGAIN... SHE SPENDS ALL HER TIME AFTER SCHOOL PAINTING BY HERSELF
SHE S ALWAYS ALONE

SO SHE'S A SOLITARY GIRL, HUH
A SOLITARY BEAUTY I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE WITH THIS ONE
THAT'S AMAZING IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE YOU A MANGA ARTIST?

WHAT? YOU DON'T HAVE TO STOP WORKING GO AHEAD KEEP PAINTING
サッ
YOU'RE SATOMI FROM E-CLASS, RIGHT? MY NAME'S OSHIKIRI
I HAVE FRIENDS
ARE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THIS? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS?
YOU DON'T SAY MUCH

WELL, I GUESS NOT...
I HAVE THREE FRIENDS THAT I EXCHANGE LETTERS WITH
THAT'S MORE THAN PLENTY
THAT'S NOT REALLY YOUR BUSINESS, IS IT?
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN YOU WITH ANYONE ELSE
バン
WHY DID I HAVE TO GO AND TELL YOU ALL OF THAT?
THEY ARE SO EXCELLENT THAT I HAVE NO DESIRE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ANYONE AT SCHOOL
WE HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS, AND OUR VALUES AND IDEAS MATCH UP PERFECTLY, AS WELL. THEY'RE EXCELLENT FRIENDS
ガラ
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS?

FIRST OF ALL, WOULDN'T IT BE EMBARRASSING TO BE SEEN WALKING AROUND TOGETHER?
WELL, I WON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE UNLESS I TRY, RIGHT?
I'M NOT VERY INTERESTING TO TALK TO
PROBABLY... I'M TELLING YOU, BEING WITH ME WON'T BE ANY FUN
I GUESS IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO BE SEEN WITH YOU
SO, I'M TOO SHORT, HUH?
PARDON MY INTRUSION
OH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
EH...?!

SHIN SITOMI
EHEHE HEHE
THAT IS YUUKO
FRONT ENVELOPE
HOKKAIDO SAPPORO CITY
FAVSAKI YUUKO
BACK ENVELOPE
SATOMI KAZUKO
NOW THEN...
TIME TO REPLY
NOW ALL FOUR OF US KNOW EACH OTHER
WELL! LOOKS LIKE YUUKO CONTACTED CHIHARU

ムシャムシャ
IT WAS A MISUNDER-STANDING THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT
YOU KNOW, I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT YOUR HEIGHT BEFORE...
YEAH IT'S BEEN A WHILE
...YOU'RE ALWAYS ALONE, TOO, HUH...

SEEMS THE RAMBLING THINGS I SAY GET TAKEN THE WRONG WAY SO THAT PEOPLE ALWAYS GET OFFENDED.
PEOPLE ALWAYS SEEM TO MISUNDERSTAND ME
WELL... THAT SORT OF THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME. IT WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU WERE PUTTING YOURSELF DOWN
WHEN YOU TRY TO BE CRITICAL OF YOURSELF, IT OFTEN SOUNDS TO THE OTHER PERSON LIKE YOU'RE REALLY CRITICIZING THEM
FIGHTING? WHY?
ACTUALLY, I'M FIGHTING WITH TWO OF THEM NOW...
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE...
I BET THAT KIND OF MISCOMMUNICATION NEVER HAPPENS WITH LETTERS
I ALSO LET MYSELF GET HEATED NOW WE'RE JUST TEARING INTO EACH OTHER THROUGH THE MAIL.
BOTH OF THEM CURSED ME OUT IN THEIR LETTERS
AND THEIR REPLY WAS, "WERE YOU LYING WHEN YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS AT SCHOOL?"
THEY WERE FURIOUS... IT'S A TERRIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING.
I FIRST MET YOU THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?
美術室
I WROTE ABOUT IT IN MY LETTERS TO THEM.

THAT'S AWFUL... WHAT'S IT TO THEM IF YOU MAKE ANOTHER FRIEND? WHAT DID THE OTHER ONE SAY?
I ONLY JUST SENT THEM A LETTER A FEW DAYS AGO, SO I HAVEN'T HEARD BACK. THEIR LETTER SHOULD COME ANY DAY NOW
SATOMI
MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU CUT OFF YOUR CORRES-PONDENCE WITH THEM.
ガガガ
AH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DID I HIT A NERVE?
NO, I SMUDGED IT BECAUSE I'M JUST GETTING SICK OF DRAWING MY OWN FACE
ガッガッ
OSHIKIRI, YOU SHOULD MODEL FOR ME.
MY NEXT PAINTING WILL BE OF YOU.
EH, ME?

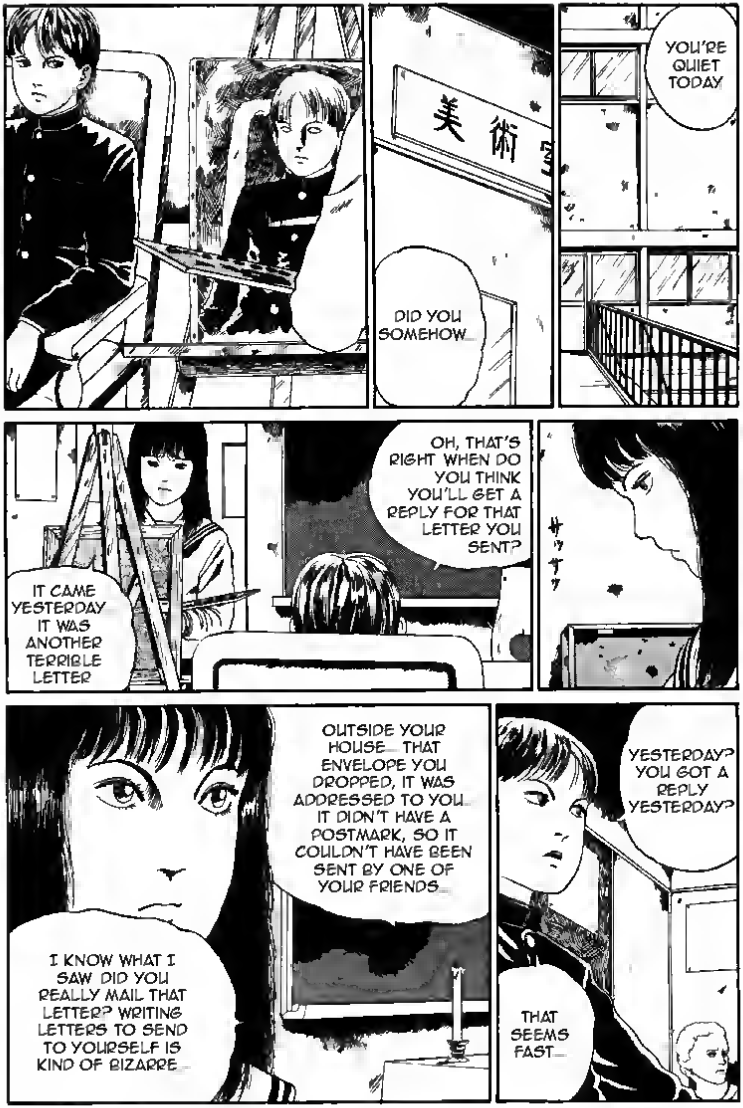
YES, JUST LIKE THAT.
...TURN A LITTLE BIT TO THE SIDE
THERE'S NO ONE TO COME TO AT MY PLACE BOTH OF MY PARENTS ARE STAYING ABROAD
SO, WHEN WE'RE FINISHED FOR THE DAY...
I WAS THINKING WE COULD GO HANG OUT AT YOUR HOUSE
IS THAT A NO?
MY PARENTS ARE OUT OF TOWN FOR WORK TOO. THEY'RE STILL IN THE COUNTRY, BUT...
WE'RE A LOT ALIKE, YOU AND I

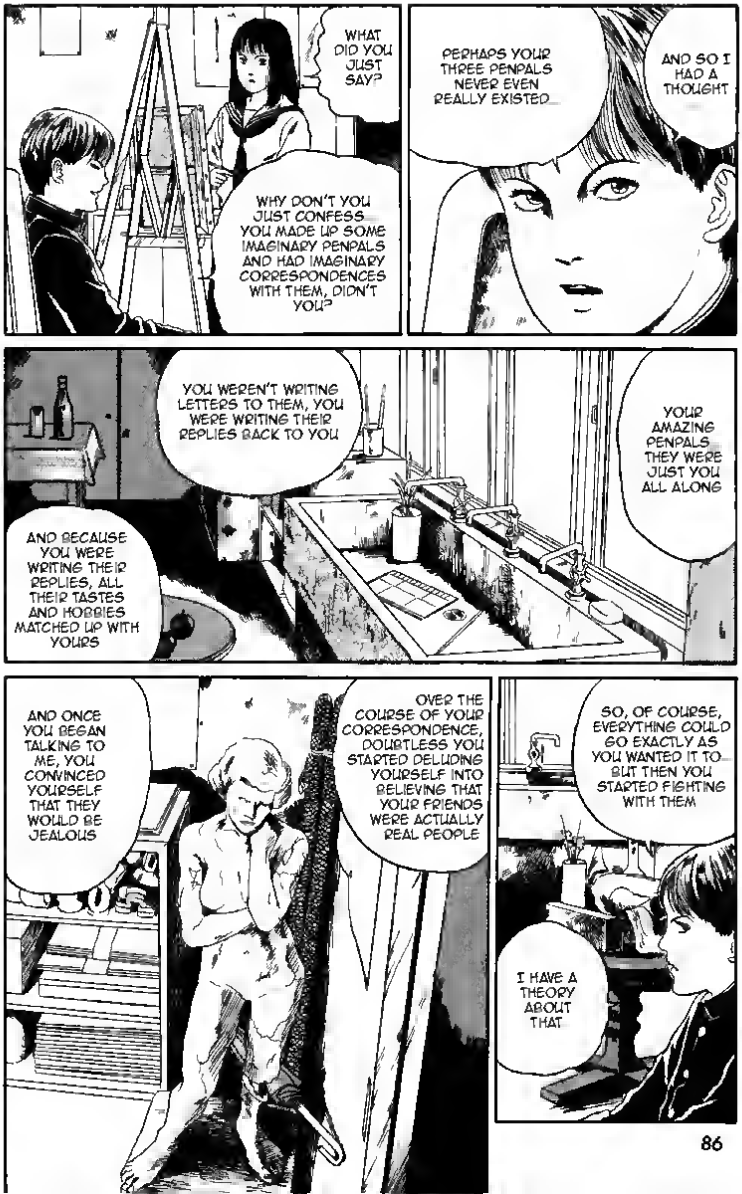
SO THIS IS YOUR HOUSE, HUH? IT'S BEAUTIFUL. TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MY PLACE
I'VE NEVER MET THEM, SO I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE
WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE YOUR PENPALS, ANYWAY?
THEIR NAMES ARE YUUKO, MIKI, AND CHIHARU
WHAT'S IT SAY?
THE LAST ONE
SO IT CAME AFTER ALL
IT'S TERRIBLE...

EVEN CHIHARU COULD WRITE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
SATOMI... WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE? MY GOD... THEY'RE NUTS!
MADE A FRIEND. IDIOT ASSHOLE MORON DUMBASS I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BETRAYED US. DIE. YOU'RE NOT OUR FRIEND ANYMORE.
PLEASE, GO HOME!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO LET THEM WRITE TO ME LIKE THAT!
SATOMI
OSHIKIRI, I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE? I HAVE TO WRITE A REPLY TO CHIHARU

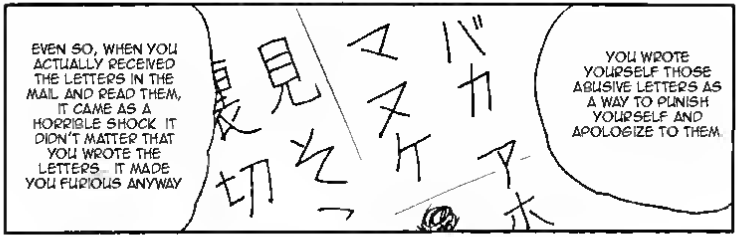
HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THEY WEREN'T REAL FRIENDS AFTER ALL
HER LONELY HEART REALLY RELIED ON THE FRIEND-SHIP OF THOSE THREE PENPALS
—LOOKS LIKE THAT GIRL FINALLY LOST SOMETHING PRECIOUS TO HER
AH!
SHIT, I FORGOT MY MUFFLER AGAIN!
バン!
KYA

FUKUYAMA CITY
SATOMI KAZUKO
スト
SORRY, SATOMI
THANK YOU


美術
YOU'RE QUIET TODAY
DID YOU SOMEHOW
OH, THAT'S RIGHT WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET A REPLY FOR THAT LETTER YOU SENT?
IT CAME YESTERDAY IT WAS ANOTHER TERRIBLE LETTER
ガラガラ
OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE... THAT ENVELOPE YOU DROPPED, IT WAS ADDRESSED TO YOU... IT DIDN'T HAVE A POSTMARK, SO IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SENT BY ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS...
I KNOW WHAT I SAW DID YOU REALLY MAIL THAT LETTER? WRITING LETTERS TO SEND TO YOURSELF IS KIND OF BIZARRE...
YESTERDAY? YOU GOT A REPLY YESTERDAY?
THAT SEEMS FAST...

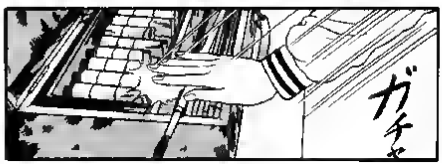

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST CONFESS YOU MADE UP SOME IMAGINARY PENPALS AND HAD IMAGINARY CORRESPONDENCES WITH THEM, DIDN'T YOU?
PERHAPS YOUR THREE PENPALS NEVER EVEN REALLY EXISTED
AND SO I HAD A THOUGHT
YOU WEREN'T WRITING LETTERS TO THEM, YOU WERE WRITING THEIR REPLIES BACK TO YOU
YOUR AMAZING PENPALS THEY WERE JUST YOU ALL ALONG
AND BECAUSE YOU WERE WRITING THEIR REPLIES, ALL THEIR TASTES AND HOBBIES MATCHED UP WITH YOURS
AND ONCE YOU BEGAN TALKING TO ME, YOU CONVINCED YOURSELF THAT THEY WOULD BE JEALOUS
OVER THE COURSE OF YOUR CORRESPONDENCE, DOUBTLESS YOU STARTED DELUDING YOURSELF INTO BELIEVING THAT YOUR FRIENDS WERE ACTUALLY REAL PEOPLE
SO, OF COURSE, EVERYTHING COULD GO EXACTLY AS YOU WANTED IT TO BUT THEN YOU STARTED FIGHTING WITH THEM
I HAVE A THEORY ABOUT THAT

LETTER: IDIOT ASSHOLE MORON BETRAYED US

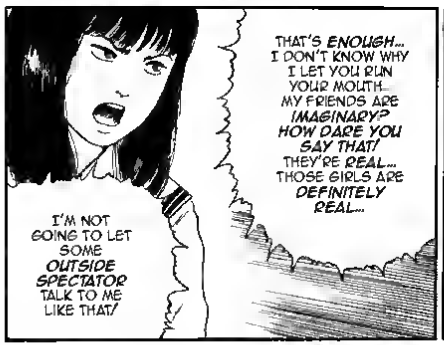

EVEN SO, WHEN YOU ACTUALLY RECEIVED THE LETTERS IN THE MAIL AND READ THEM, IT CAME AS A HORRIBLE SHOCK. IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT YOU WROTE THE LETTERS... IT MADE YOU FURIOUS ANYWAY
バカ
マヌケ
見そこ
愛切
アホ
YOU WROTE YOURSELF THOSE ABUSIVE LETTERS AS A WAY TO PUNISH YOURSELF AND APOLOGIZE TO THEM.

DON'T PLAY DUMB. THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULDN'T HAVE NOTICED THAT
THE ENVELOPE WAS ADDRESSED TO ME? THAT CAN'T BE TRUE... I MUST HAVE WRITTEN MY ADDRESS BY MISTAKE

LONG STORY SHORT, YOU WERE ONLY USING THOSE LETTERS AS A WAY TO CRITICIZE YOURSELF
WELL, THAT MAY HAVE SOUNDED LIKE A QUALIFIED PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS, BUT...



WELL, IN ANY CASE, YOUR SICK LITTLE GAME IS OVER
THAT'S THE REAL REASON YOU DESTROYED THAT PAINTING YOU WERE WORKING SO HARD ON... YOU WERE SEVERING YOUR CONNECTION TO THE THREE OF THEM.


I'M NOT GOING TO LET SOME OUTSIDE SPECTATOR TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!
THAT'S ENOUGH... I DON'T KNOW WHY I LET YOU RUN YOUR MOUTH... MY FRIENDS ARE IMAGINARY? HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT! THEY'RE REAL... THOSE GIRLS ARE DEFINITELY REAL...

JEEZ, AT LEAST CLEAN UP YOUR PAINT SUPPLIES
I'M GOING HOME!
SHE DIDN'T SHOW UP AT SCHOOL FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS...
THAT SHE WROTE ALL THOSE LETTERS TO HERSELF?
DON'T TELL ME SHE DOESN'T REALIZE IT?

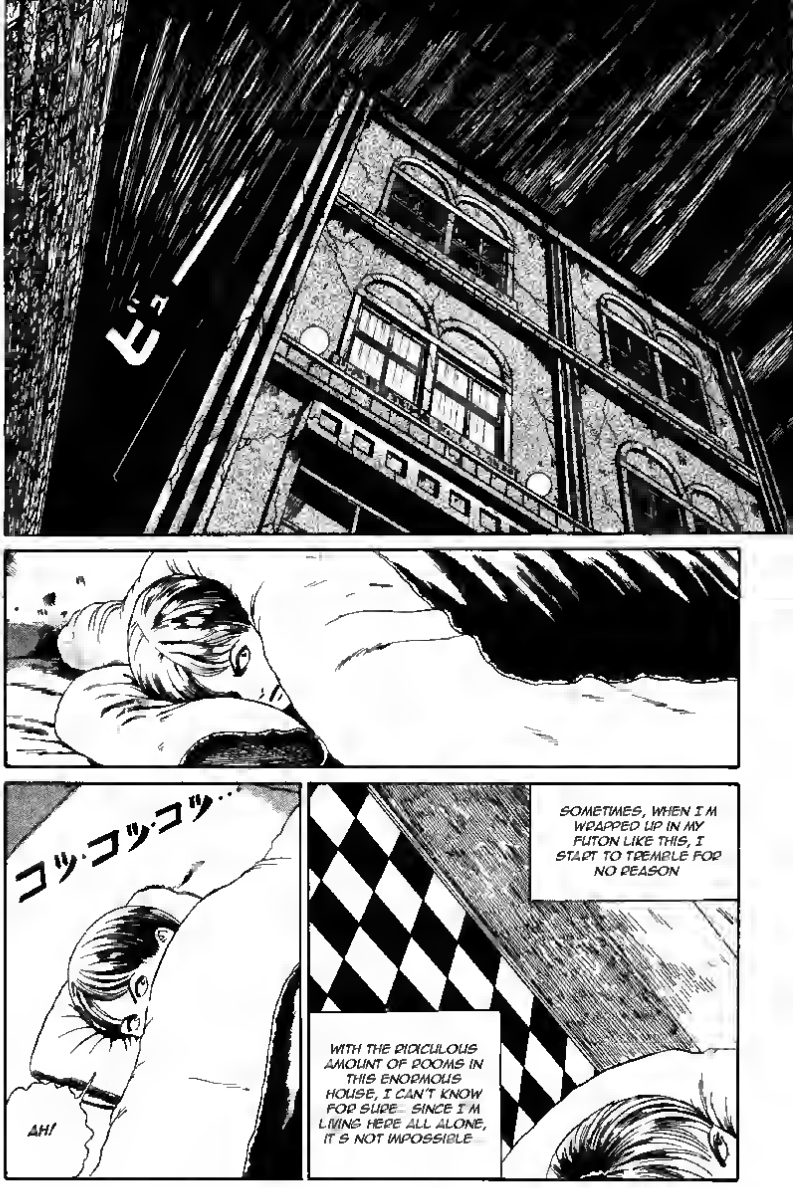
ブッブー
ブー
HEY IT'S BEEN A WHILE YOU FORGOT ALL YOUR PAINT SUPPLIES AT SCHOOL
OSHIKIRI
カチャ
OSHIKIRI... THE LETTERS KEEP COMING...
SATOMI ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?

I THINK THE THREE OF THEM ARE COMING TO KILL ME... FOR REAL...
YUKO FROM HOKKAIDO... MIKI FROM TOKYO... AND CHIHARU FROM FUKUOKA... THEY'RE ALL HEADING THIS WAY
OUR FIGHT KEPT ESCALATING... THEY SENT ME THREATENING LETTERS ALMOST EVERY DAY...
I... DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SO I TOLD THEM IN A LETTER, "I'M GOING TO KILL YOU", AND THEY SENT BACK, "NOT IF WE KILL YOU FIRST"...
I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO MEET UP AND THEN COME HERE TO DO IT...
DO THEY THINK I'M JUST GOING TO LET THEM KILL ME?
キョロキョロ
KYAAA

THE THREE OF YOU STAY OVER THERE!
STAY AWAY FROM ME... I'LL STAB YOU!
IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER, I'LL STAB YOU!
I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO GET ANY CLOSER!
AND MIKI...
YUKO
グサッ
STOP, CHIHARU!
SATOMI WHAT'S GOING ON THERE'S NOBODY HERE
KYAAAA

ガッガッガッ
ブッ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
WOAH
ドサ
グサッ

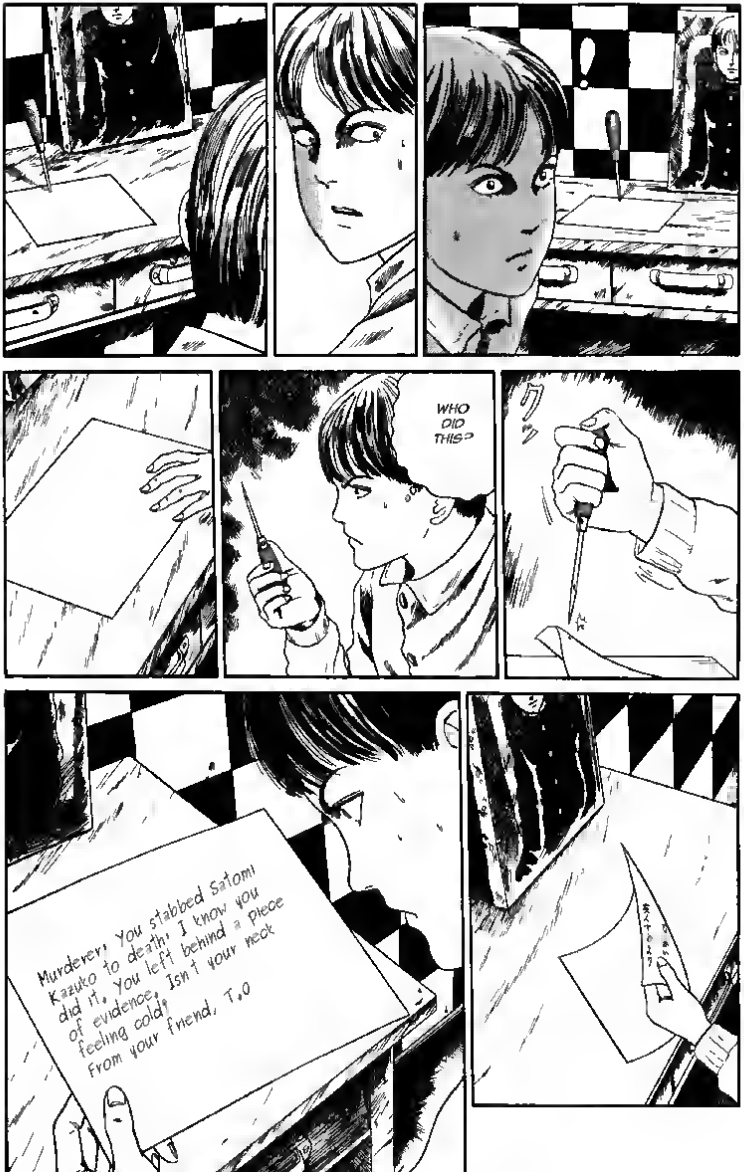
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
PANT PANT
SHE COMPLETELY BELIEVED IN THE EXISTENCE OF HER PENPALS! IT WAS A DELUSION BROUGHT ON BY HER INTENSE SOLITUDE. SHE WAS KILLED BY HER OWN DELUSION!
SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?
NO
IF I'M CARELESS, THEY MIGHT BEGIN TO SUSPECT ME
IT WOULD LOOK LIKE I WAS THE ONE WHO STARRED HER.
HOW COULD I PROVE IT WASN'T ME?
MOREOVER, NO ONE KNOWS I WENT OVER TO HER HOUSE, AND THERE'S NO EVIDENCE I WAS THERE


ビュー
コッ・コッ・コッ…
AH!
SOMETIMES, WHEN I'M WRAPPED UP IN MY FUTON LIKE THIS, I START TO TREMBLE FOR NO REASON
WITH THE RIDICULOUS AMOUNT OF ROOMS IN THIS ENORMOUS HOUSE, I CAN'T KNOW FOR SURE... SINCE I'M LIVING HERE ALL ALONE, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE...

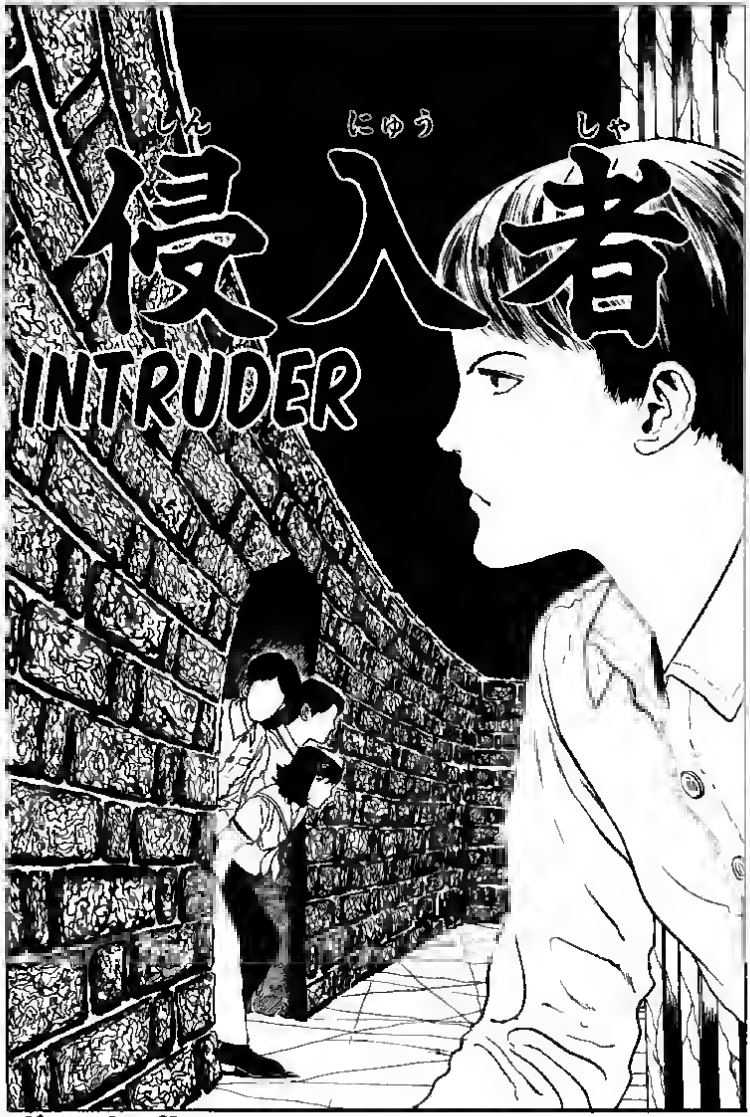
ギギ…
コンコン
WH... WHO'S THERE?
DEFINITELY JUST NOW... I HEARD FOOTSTEPS...
ガタン…

SFX. CLICK

バタン
ヒタヒタ
コッコッ
ガタン…
SFX CLICK
I'M HEARING THINGS...
IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION MY MIND'S PLAYING TRICKS


WHO DID THIS?
Murderer, You stabbed Satomi Kazuko to death. I know you did it. You left behind a piece of evidence. Isn't your neck feeling cold? From your friend, T.O

EVIDENCE...
WHAT IS THIS? YOUR FRIEND, TO? EVIDENCE ♪
I know you did it. You left behind a piece of evidence. Isn't your neck feeling cold? From your friend, T.O
WHO THE HELL...
MY MUFFLER...
THIS... THIS IS MY HANDWRITING ...



SLUG CHICKS

コツ…コツ…
THUMP
THUMP
LISTEN, YOU CAN HEAR IT, RIGHT? TAKAYUKI NII-SAN, THOSE FOOTSTEPS …
AH… INDEED.
コツコツコツ
THUMP
THUMP
THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS CAN ALWAYS BE HEARD.
THERE'S PROBABLY A SQUATTER SNEAKING AROUND
TORU, COME ON… I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK AND CHASE HIM OUT.

FOOT-STEPS, BUT NO VISIBLE SOURCE
I THINK SO IT'S SUCH A HUGE HOUSE EVEN / DON'T KNOW HOW MANY ROOMS THERE ARE...
WERE THOSE ALL ROOMS IN THIS MAN-SION?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
TORU, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU USED TO BE MORE CHEERFUL DON'T YOU THINK LIVING ALL ALONE IN THIS MANSION MIGHT MAKE YOU PARANOID?
I'VE NEVER GOTTEN IN TROUBLE WITH THEM, BUT I JUST HATE THEM.
TAKAYUKI NII-SAN, YOU KNOW I HATE THE POLICE
HAVE YOU TOLD THE POLICE?
THAT'S NEW. WHY?
IT'S FINE.
AT LEAST UNTIL YOUR PARENTS RETURN FROM OVER-SEAS
COME OVER TO MY PLACE. WE'RE FAMILY. YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME

"THE SEVEN MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD
THE NEXT DAY
HE LOOKS SO UNPLEASANT.
AH, I'M SURE HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.
HE'S SO DARK AND QUIET.
YOU KNOW THAT OSHIKIRI KID? HE'S ALWAYS TALKING TO HIMSELF.
LATE-LY

YEAH, SIGNS THAT CAN'T BE SEEN WITH YOUR EYES
SIGNS?
I'VE BEEN HAVING THIS WEIRD FEELING. I'VE BEEN FEELING THESE "SIGNS".
OOH
SIGNS FROM SOMEONE WHO'S NOT OF THIS WORLD.
OR RATHER, SIGNS OF PEOPLE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.
HOW DO I PUT IT? SOMETHING BEYOND THIS WORLD.
NO, NOT SPIRITS.
SO, SPIRITS?

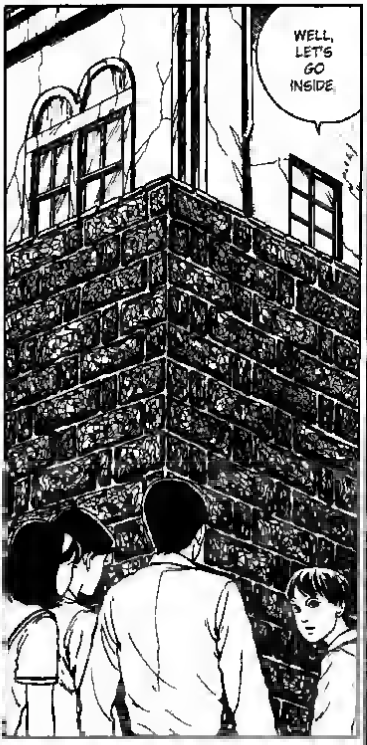
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE GOTTEN THIS FEELING BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M FEELING THIS WAY.
YES, BUT LET ME EXPLAIN.
PEOPLE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION?!
"THE SEVEN MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD". I'LL GO GET IT.
I READ A BOOK HERE THAT TALKED ABOUT THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE.
OH
BY "OTHER DIMENSION" DO YOU MEAN LIKE THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE?
YES, EXACTLY.
AH, THAT'S THE ONE
HUH?

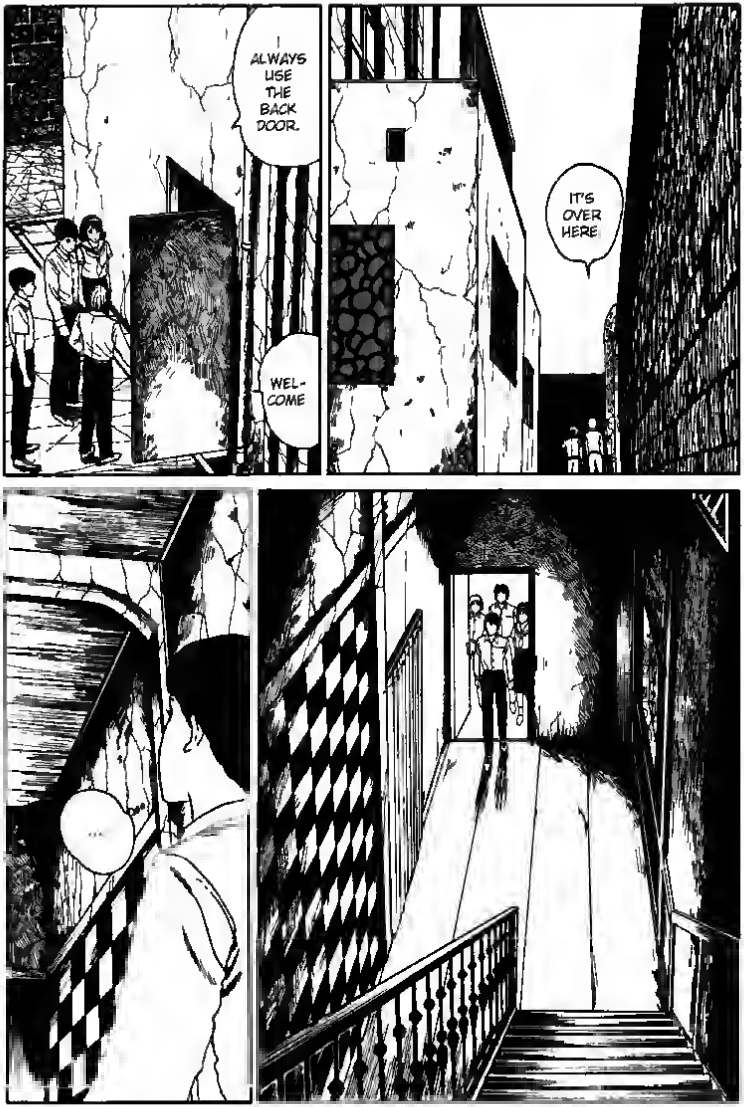
AH
HMM THE CHAPTER ON THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE
パラパラ
I LOVE BOOKS LIKE THAT
OOH, LET'S SEE!
OH NO, I COULDN'T.
NO, IT'S FINE I HAVEN'T BORROWED IT. PLEASE GO AHEAD.
I ALWAYS GET TOO INTO THINGS
I'M SO SORRY YOU WERE READING IT, PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT, THOUGH IT DOES SOUND INTERESTING.
OTHER DIMEN-SIONS?
I SEE THEN LET'S TALK.
ABOUT OTHER DIMEN-SIONS, I MEAN
LET'S READ IT TOGETHER. I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS
世界の七不思議

I'M WATA-NABE.
I'M KOIZUMI FROM CLASS E NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M KAMI-YAMA YOU?
HUH?
I'M OSHIKIRI FROM CLASS C
NICE TO MEET YOU.
HEY, ALL FOUR OF US SHOULD GO OUT AND GET FOOD AND CHAT ABOUT ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS, RIGHT?!
YEAH!
HURRY, OSHIKIRI-KUN!
THEY'RE SO WEIRD.
WHAT'S WITH THEM?
OSHIKIRI-KUN, YOU DON'T HAVE CRAM SCHOOL TODAY, RIGHT?
UH, YEAH
IT'S SETTLED! LET'S GO!

THEIR CONVERSATIONS OFTEN FOCUSED AROUND THE SUPERNATURAL.
LOOK AT THIS PHOTO I TOOK
THEY WERE AN ODD BUT INTERESTING BUNCH.
BY SOME STRANGE CHANCE, I ENDED UP MINGLING WITH THE GROUP.
THOSE COULD BE SPIRITS! THAT'S AMAZING!
THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS WITHOUT A FORM
I DIDN'T SAY MUCH, BUT THEY WERE VERY INTERESTED ABOUT THE FOOTSTEPS THAT HAD BEEN BOTHERING ME AT HOME.
YEAH!
I TOTALLY WANNA HEAR THOSE FOOTSTEPS! LET'S ALL GO TO OSHIKIRI-KUN'S HOUSE TODAY!
OSHIKIRI-KUN! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO EARLIER?!

IT'S JUST LIKE A WESTERN CASTLE
THAT'S A REAL LONELY LOOKING PLACE


WELL, LET'S GO INSIDE


I ALWAYS USE THE BACK DOOR.
WEL-COME
IT'S OVER HERE
...

CREAK
THUMP
コッ
THUMP
コッ
THUMP
コッ
THUMP
コッ
THIS IS ALL I HAVE
YES
DO YOU REALLY LIVE ALONE IN THIS MANSION?
OSHIKIRI-KUN.

SOMETHING FEELS REALLY WEIRD IN THIS MANSION KOIZUMI, CAN YOU FEEL IT TOO?
AH
ME TOO.
YEAH, THERE'S SOMETHING UNSETTLING ABOUT THIS PLACE.
AH IT HAPPENS MOSTLY AT NIGHT, THOUGH IT HAPPENS SOMETIMES DURING THE DAY, TOO.
ANYWAYS, WHEN DO YOU HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS?

DO YOU GUYS WANNA GO HOME? IT'S GETTING LATE.
YOU CAN ALWAYS WAIT SOME OTHER TIME.
OSHI-KIRI-KUN
THIS MANSION HAS SIGNS OF ANOTHER DIMENSION
HUH?!

I CAN SENSE THE SIGNALS OF THOSE LIVING IN THE OTHER DIMENSION, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT THEM THIS STRONGLY.
SIGNS...?
SO ARE YOU SAYING THERE'S AN OPENING TO ANOTHER DIMENSION IN THIS MANSION?
OSHIKIRI-KUN, CAN YOU THINK OF ANY PLACE IT MAY BE?
IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE...
KAMI-YAMA...
THOSE FOOTSTEPS MUST BE THE SOUND OF AN INTRUDER FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE IT'S A WORLD THAT'S EXACTLY LIKE OUR OWN.
OR IT COULD BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, WITH WEIRD CREATURES.
HEY, I WONDER WHAT THE OTHER DIMENSION IS LIKE.
WELL... I CAN HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS COMING FROM SOME-WHERE...
BUT I CAN'T THINK OF A PLACE WHERE AN ENTRANCE MAY BE...

EVEN THOUGH WE DIDN'T HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS WE WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO, WE'RE STILL VERY INTERESTED IN THIS MANSION.
IT'S REALLY AMAZING.
YEAH.
OSHIKIRI-KUN, WE'LL COME BACK.
NEXT TIME WE'LL DEFINITELY INVESTIGATE THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
TODAY WAS TRULY OVERWHELMING.
KOIZUMI-KUN AND WATANABE-KUN BOTH SHARE THIS INTEREST AND WE'RE REALLY GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU, OSHIKIRI-KUN.
I REALLY LOVE THE SUPERNATURAL, AND MY SENSE FOR IT IS BETTER THAN MOST PEOPLE'S.
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING WITH MY OWN TWO EYES. NOW I HAVE MY CHANCE.

IF I HADN'T MET YOU ALL, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST ANOTHER BORING DAY AS USUAL.
I COULD SAY THE SAME.
YEAH, I'M SURE THIS MEETING WASN'T A COINCIDENCE!
I AGREE, YOU'VE SHOWN US REALLY EXCITING.
SEE YA!
HERE, TO OUR NEW FRIEND-SHIP!
THE PLEASURE IS MINE

IN OTHER WORDS, IT SEEMS LIKE A NORMAL ROOM, BUT ONCE YOU WALK THROUGH THE DOOR, IT'S AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.
ANYWAYS, LET'S INVESTIGATE ALL THE ROOMS AND SEE IF THERE'S AN OPENING TO THE DIMENSION SOMEWHERE YOU NEVER KNOW...
BY THAT YOU MEAN ?
図書室
THE NEXT DAY THE FOUR OF US WERE IN A HEATED DISCUSSION ABOUT DIMENSIONS
AND THAT'S ALL THE ROOMS
ALL THE ROOMS ARE SOMEHOW DIFFERENT. I'M NOT IMAGINING IT, I STILL FEEL LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING
SO? KAMIYAMA-KUN

NO WAY MY PARENTS ARE BRINGING LOADS OF FRIENDS OVER TONIGHT.
HUH? YOU WON'T BE GOING HOME, WATANABE-KUN?
MAYBE WE COULD STAY LATE TONIGHT AND WAIT FOR THE SOUNDS.
MAYBE WAITING FOR THE FOOTSTEPS IS POINTLESS
THUMP コッ
THUMP コッ
FIN-ALLY
キィ
THUMP コッ
THUMP コッ
THUMP コッ
THUMP コッ
THUMP コッ
WHERE ARE THEY COMING FROM?
THUMP コッ
THUMP コッ
THUMP コッ

CREEEE ギーバタン
DOWN THE STAIRS !!!
OSHI-KIRI-KUN, WHAT WAS THAT?
OUTSIDE! IT WENT OUTSIDE!
LET'S GO!
ダダダ
WAIT, LOOK AT THAT!
AH!

AH!
WHAT ?!
SHNNK
SHNNK
THAT'S -!
SHNNK

WHAT'S HE DOING?
WHAT'S GOING ON?! THERE ARE TWO OSHIKIRI-KUNS!!
ISN'T THAT OSHIKIRI-KUN ?!
IT'S SO SIMILAR THERE'S EVEN A PERSON WHO'S EXACTLY US FROM THERE!
I TOLD YOU! THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION IS AN EXACT MIRROR OF OUR OWN!
SHHNK
THAT'S THE OTHER DIMEN-SIONS OSHIKIRI-KUN
HUH?!

THE OTHER OSHIKIRI-KUN WAS FOUND AN ENTRANCE TO FREELY TRAVEL TO THIS WORLD!
ザッ
ドサ
HE'S BURYING A CORPSE !!!

NO WAY
ITS AN EXCELLENT PLAN. THERE WOULD BE NO TRACES LEFT IN THE OTHER WORLD.
THAT OSHIKIRI-KUN HAS BEEN KILLING PEOPLE IN THE OTHER WORLD. AND IN ORDER TO GET RID OF THE BODIES HE'S BURYING THEM IN THIS WORLD.
HEY YOU BASTARD, STOP!
THIS IS MY HOUSE!
ザッ
DAMN IT.
AH, STOP OSHI-KIRI-KUN ...!
ガタン

HEHE
HE HEHE HEHE
WHA-
WHAT'S SO FUNNY ...?
AAHAHAHAHA HAHAHA!!
HA HA HA HA
HA HAHA HAHA !!!

AH
AHA HAH HAH
HE DISAP-PEARED
WE DEFINITELY SAW THAT HE DISAP-PEARED RIGHT THERE
SO THE ENTR-ANCE IS HERE?
BUT NO-THING IS HERE
HE PROBABLY HAS THE ABILITY TO TRAVEL REGARDLESS OF WHERE HE IS
THOUGH I'M NOT SURE IF HE'S LIMITED TO JUST THIS PLACE

OSHIKIRI-KUN I WAS SHOCKED TOO
BUT PLEASE DON'T WORRY.
IT WAS STILL SHOCKING.
HONESTLY I WAS REALLY EXCITED. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEM SOMETHING SO CLEARLY.
RATHER, WE SHOULD CONSIDER OURSELVES LUCKY TO HAVE WITNESSED THIS EVENT.
THAT WAS AN EVIL OSHIKIRI FROM ANOTHER WORLD. HE KILLED PEOPLE. BUT YOU AREN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL.
EXACTLY.
HUH?
LOOK OVER THERE
HEY
NESSIE AND UFOS ARE TAME COMPARED TO THIS.

WHAT ?!
THIS IS KAMIYAMA
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO WAY
BUT WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON IN THAT DIMENSION?
KA-KAMIYAMA-KUN
DON'T WORRY IT'S FINE
CALM DOWN.

ザクザク
SHNNK
HEY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE DIRT HERE HAS SOMETHING BURIED IN IT TOO! LET'S DIG IT UP!
WHAT ?!
カツ
THUNK
ザッ
SHNNK
IT CAN'T BE ...
WHAT

IS THAT KOIZUMI-KUN AND ME?!
I KNOW
NO, IT WASN'T ME
YOUR "OTHER" SELF ISN'T THE SAME AS YOU
IT WAS YOUR "OTHER" SELF WHO DID IT
WAA WATANABE-KUN
WHY? HOW CRUEL

BUT IT SEEMS THE "OTHER" YOU IS A SERIAL KILLER.
THIS CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE
I TRULY DIDN'T EXPECT THIS TO BE THE RESULT OF OUR ALTERNATE DIMENSION INVESTIGATIONS
ANYWAY, WE SHOULD GIVE THEM A PROPER BURIAL. BURY THEM DEEPER.
AND HELP OUT OSHIKIRI-KUN AT THE SAME TIME.
AS WELL AS OURSELVES.

ザッ
SHHNK
I GAVE THE THREE OF THEM A PROPER, DEEP BURIAL.
THE THREE OF THEM ALSO HELPED. IT WAS THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER AS FRIENDS.
AND I WONDER IF I'M JUST IMAGINING THE MURDEROUS INTENT OF THE FOOTSTEPS, THAT NOW SOUND DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE.
BUT THAT INTRUDER IS STILL AROUND
コツ
THUMP
コツコツコツ
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
コツコツコツコツ
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

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HAH ...
HAH ...
THIS TERRI-FYING MANSION ...
HURRY ... I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY.
IF HE FINDS ME IT'LL BE THE END
HAH!

KYAAA!!
WAIT!
I SAID WAIT!
HELP!
HEY!
DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE TERRIBLE EYES
PLEASE, OSHIKIRI-KUN, OVERLOOK ME
LET ME GO HOME
WHY ARE YOU IN MY HOUSE AT THIS HOUR?
YOU'RE FUJI MIO-SAN FROM MY CLASS, RIGHT?
NO, GET AWAY FROM ME!

AH...
HAH!
HAH!
HEY! WAIT!
AH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?
...
SHE DISAP-PEARED

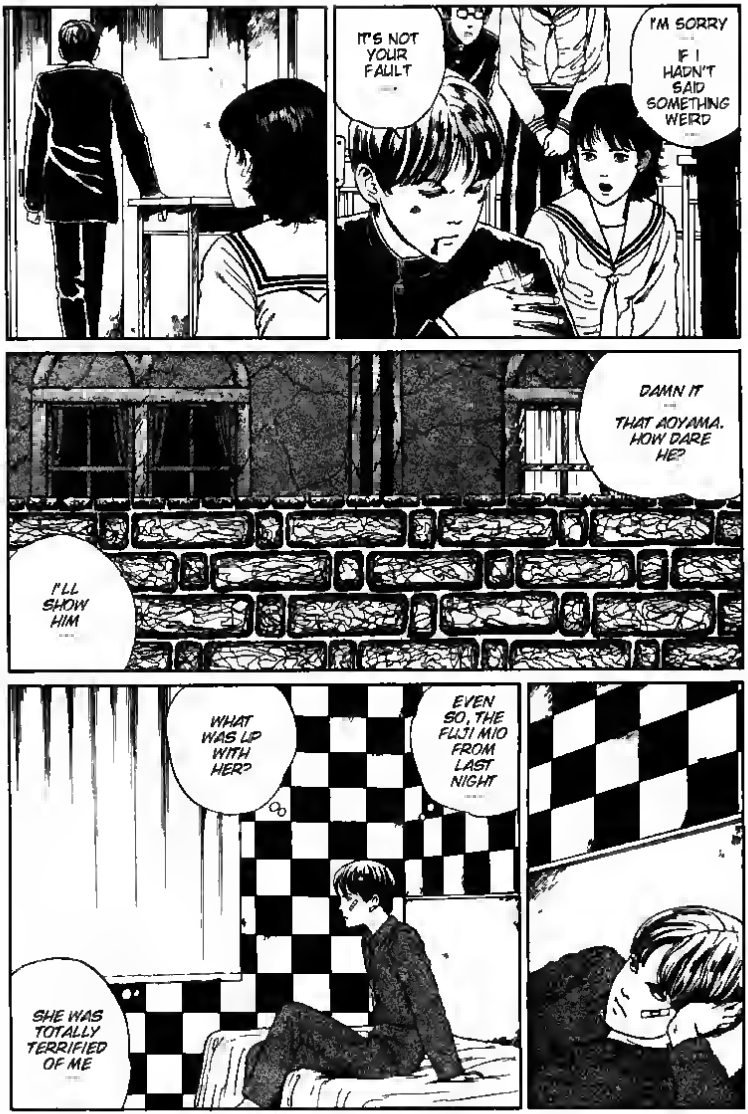
AS BRIGHT AS ALWAYS. A COMPLELY DIFFERENT PERSON FROM LAST NIGHT.
FUJI MIO IS RIGHT THERE AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.
MAYBE IT WAS A FUJI FROM AN ALTER-NATE DIMEN-SION.
A DIFFERENT PERSON, YES, SHE'S SOMEONE ELSE
THIS FUJU IS NOT THE SAME ONE I SAW LAST NIGHT

IT SEEMS THERE IS A GATEWAY TO THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION IN MY HOUSE
A WORLD JUST LIKE THIS ONE.
THAT GIRL WAS JUST LIKE THE ONE IN THIS WORLD.
THIS IS WHERE THOSE WHO LOSE THEIR WAY IN THE WORLD MEET
AND RETURN TO THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
EH?
OSHI-KIRI-KUN.
BUT WHY DID SHE APPEAR IN MY MANSION?
CAN I HELP YOU?
AH
FUJI-KUN.

YOU WERE STARING AT ME FOR QUITE A WHILE.
EH?
SPEAKING OF HELPING, IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, OSHIKIRI-KUN?
AH... THANK YOU...
YES. TODAY IS YOUR TURN TO TAKE THE ROSTER, OSHIKIRI-KUN.
I'LL LEAVE THE ROSTER TO YOU.
HEHE, WELL OKAY THEN.
DON'T LIE... YOU WERE STAR-ING.
I WASN'T STARING AT YOU!
OH, NO...
SHOULDN'T YOU GIVE UP?
SHE'S TALL WHILE YOU'RE JUST A MIDGET.
A SHY KID LIKE YOU CAN ONLY LOOK FROM AFAR.
OOOOHH, OSHIKIRI-KUN, YOU GOT A THING FOR FUJI?

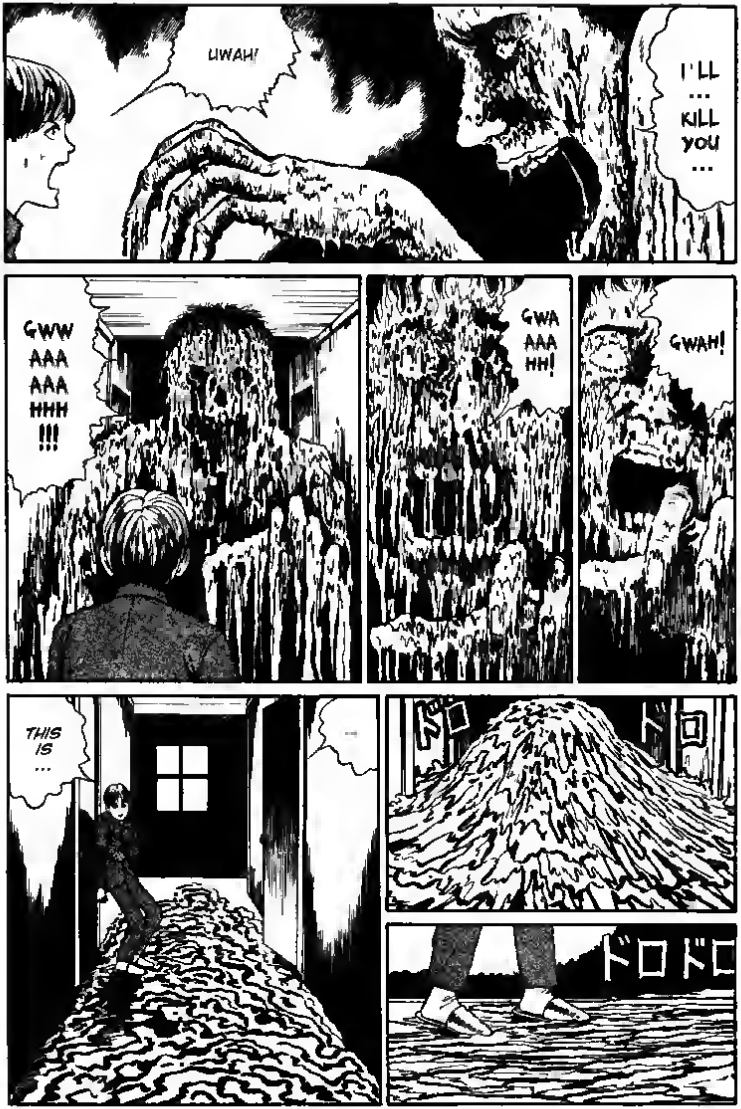
ONLY GOOD AT SHITTING HIS PANTS.
YOU'D LOOK LIKE A TODDLER BROUGHT IN BY HIS MOM.
AREN'T YOU, KIDDO?
IT'D BE EMBARASSING IF YOU WALKED SIDE BY SIDE.
WHAT'CHU SAY? YOU LITTLE
ZIP IT, WILL YOU?
YOU'RE ANNOY-ING, AOY-AMA.
WHAT'S WRONG, KID? ANSWER ME!
GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, SHORTY?
EH? WHAT'S WRONG?
FOR A SHOR-TY.
WELL, AREN'T YOU BIG MOUTHED TODAY?
YOU MIDGET.
YOU SHORTY.

ボカ
ボカ
WOAH, LOOK!
KYAAA! PLEASE STOP!
BRING IT!
YOU BASTARD!!
ボカ
ボカ
YOU LITTLE-!!
HEH HEH HEH
OSHIKIRI-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY?
AH...
STOP IT!
HEH
I SAID STOP!


I'M SORRY IF I HADN'T SAID SOMETHING WEIRD
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
DAMN IT
THAT AOYAMA. HOW DARE HE?
I'LL SHOW HIM
EVEN SO, THE FUJI MIO FROM LAST
WHAT WAS UP WITH HER?
SHE WAS TOTALLY TERRIFIED OF ME

OSHIKIRI! WHERE ARE YOU? SHOW YOURSELF!
HUH?
OSHIKIRI!
OSHIKIRI!
HUH?
OSHIKIRI!
NO ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME IN
IT'S LOCKED ...
OSHIKIRI!
ガチャ
HM ...? WAIT A SEC
EVEN SO, HIS VOICE IS SO LOUD
IS HE HERE TO START A FIGHT AGAIN?
THAT'S AOYAMA'S VOICE
OSHIKIRI !!!

M-MONSTER !!!
UWAH!
OSHIKIRI !!!
OSHIKIRI !!!


UWAH!
I'LL ... KILL YOU ...
GWW AAA AAA HHH !!!
GWA AAA HH!
GWAH!
THIS IS ...
ドロ
ドロ
ドロドロ

I DON'T GET IT ...
BUT AOYAMA WAS IN SCHOOL TODAY
NO ... THE SLIME FROM THE MONSTER IS STILL THERE.
WAS IT A HALLUCINATION ?
OSHIKIRI-KUN!
AND THAT WAS DEFINITELY AOYAMA. A GIANT AOYAMA.
SINCE THEN, FUJI MIO AND I BECAME CLOSE.
AH ... OKAY ...
OSHIKIRI-KUN, SHALL WE GO BACK TOGETHER?
BUT THERE'S SUCH A RUMOR.
IT'S NOT A CASTLE
HUH?
I HEARD YOUR HOUSE LOOKS LIKE A WESTERN CASTLE.
HEY, IS IT TRUE?

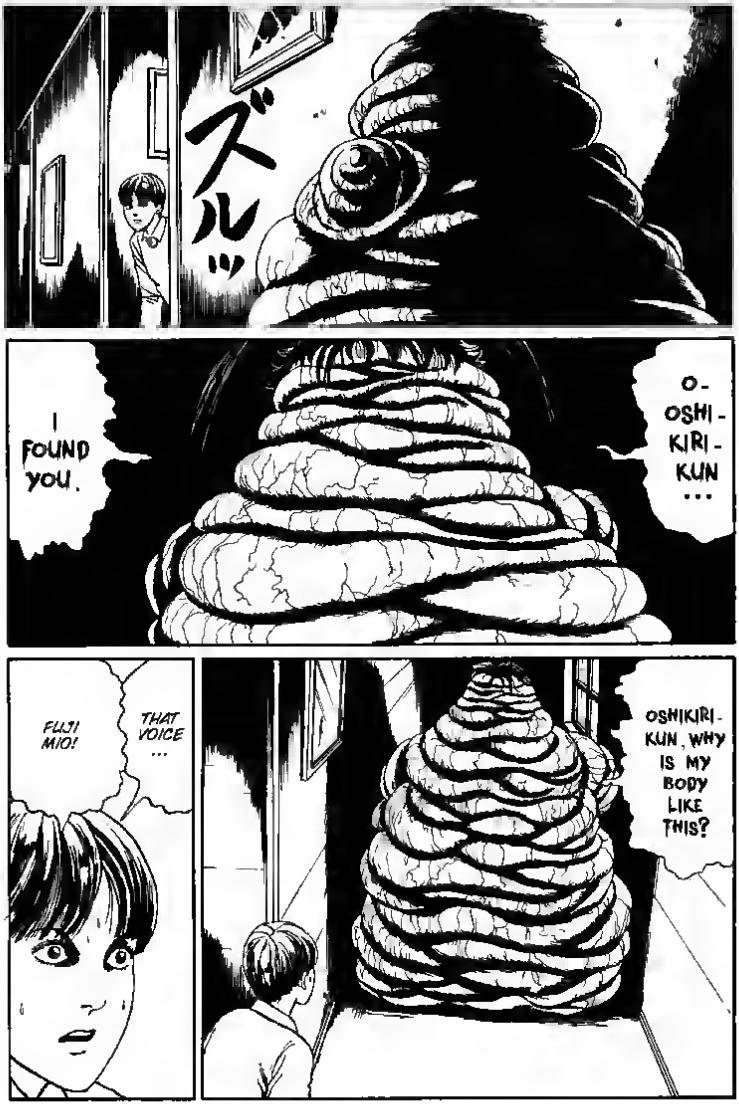
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT JUST ONCE.
COULD YOU GIVE ME A TOUR OF IT?
EH
IT'S BETTER FOR YOU NOT TO KNOW.
HUH? BUT WHY?
WHAT?
IT'S BEST IF IT STAYED A RUMOR.
OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE EMBARASSED.
NO I'M NOT.
YOU'RE ALWAYS ALONE WITHOUT ANY FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?
I DON'T THINK IT'S HEALTHY TO BE WITHOUT FRIENDS IN YOUR YOUTH
YOU'LL BECOME WEIRD AS AN ADULT.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO TURN BACK
WOAH, AMAZING! SO THERE'S REALLY A HOUSE LIKE THIS IN THIS TOWN
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO LEAVE AFTER WE'VE JUST GOTTEN HERE?
THERE IS A GATEWAY TO AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION IN THIS HOUSE.
I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHY.
A GATE-WAY TO AN ALTER-NATE DIMEN-SION?
YES, A GATEWAY BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND ANOTHER WORLD
IT WOULD BE BAD TO GET LOST IN ANOTHER DIMENSION AFTER ENTERING THIS HOUSE.

SOMETIMES PEOPLE FROM THE OTHER DIMENSION APPEAR
IT'S THE TRUTH.
THIS ISN'T SOME JOKE!
WELL
THAT'S INTERESTING! NOW I REALLY WANT TO GO IN!
ISN'T IT TERRIFYING?
THAT AN INTEREST IN THE SUPERNATURAL COULD UNEXPECTEDLY COME BACK TO BITE US IN THE BACK?
I HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN OUR DOPPLE-GANGERS APPEAR.
THE OTHER DIMENSION LOOKS JUST LIKE THIS ONE
I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT BELIEVE IN NOR HAVE AN INTEREST IN ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS. SO I DON'T THINK ANYTHING WILL COME BACK TO BITE US.
IS BETTER THAN GOING IN TOO DEEP!
SO GOING BACK

COME OUT OF YOUR SHELL! I'M HERE FOR YOU!
YOU SEE THESE THINGS BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS HIDING IN YOUR SHELL
YOU SAY YOU SEE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOPPLE-GANGERS. I DON'T THINK IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS, BUT BECAUSE OF YOUR OWN HEART
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEART
JUST BE VERY CAREFUL
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO IN.
WELL, I HAVE WONDERED IF IT WAS A HALLUCI-NATION BEFORE
SHE WAS HERE JUST A SECOND AGO
WHERE DID SHE GO?
EH?

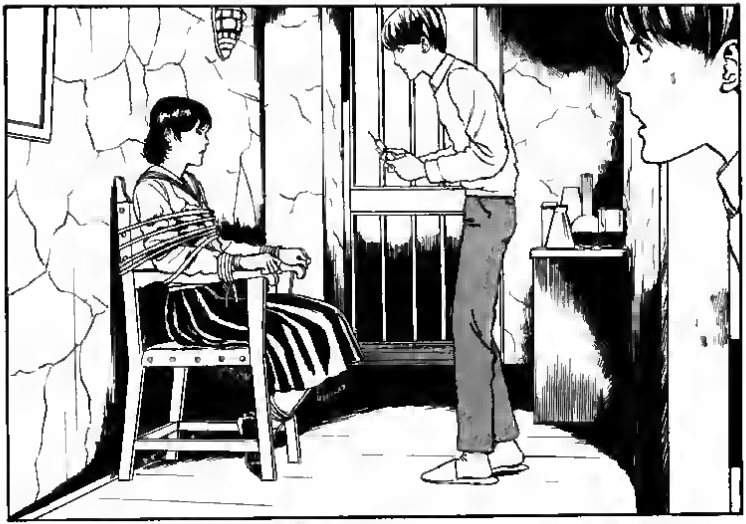
DON'T TELL ME THAT'S WHEN ...
SHE ENTERED THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION ...
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS
FUJI MIO HASN'T BEEN COMING TO SCHOOL ...
ギィ
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?
ズルッ ズル
DAMN IT ...
ズルッ ズルッ
SFX. SLURP, SLURP
ズルッ
ズルッ ズル
ズルッ

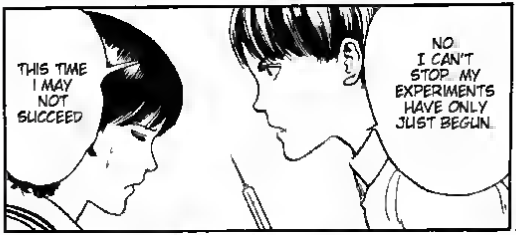

ズル"
O-OSHI-KIRI-KUN...
I FOUND YOU.
FUJI MIO!
THAT VOICE...
OSHIKIRI-KUN, WHY IS MY BODY LIKE THIS?

ズルッ
ズルッ
O…
OSHIKIRI-KUN…
HOW DARE YOU TURN MY BODY INTO THIS
モリ
モリ
モリ
CURSE YOU…
I'LL CURSE…
UU GH…
UGYAH…
モリ
モリ
モリ
ガチャン
ドロ
ドロ
ドロ
ドロ
GYYA AAAA AAAA HHHH !!!

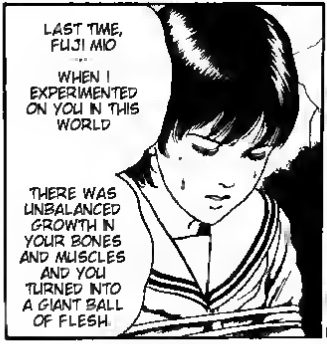
ドロ
ドロ
ドロ
ドロ
WAS THIS FUJIMIO?
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
NO, WAIT! WHICH FUJI IS THE FUJI FROM THIS WORLD ...?
IN ANY CASE, SOMETHING TERRIBLE SEEMS TO BE GOING ON IN THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
AND IT SEEMS TO BE THE 'OTHER' ME THAT IS CAUSING IT.

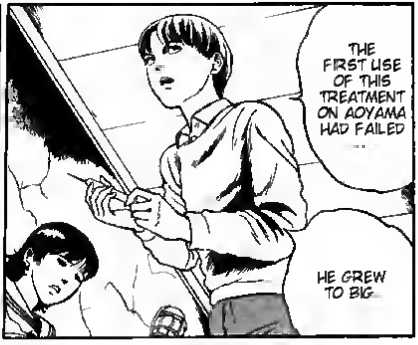
OH ...!
HUH? THIS IS THE FIRST FLOOR ..
BUT I'M SURE I WAS ON THE SECOND FLOOR ...
PLEASE STOP
WHO IS THAT ?
LET ME GO
PLEASE OSHIKIRI-KUN
WHEN DID I COME DOWN HERE?




THIS TIME I MAY NOT SUCCEED
NO. I CAN'T STOP. MY EXPERIMENTS HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN.

THAT'S FUJI MIO!
THAT'S THAT'S ME FROM THE ALTER-NATE DIMEN-SION.


LAST TIME, FUJI MIO
WHEN I EXPERIMENTED ON YOU IN THIS WORLD
THERE WAS UNBALANCED GROWTH IN YOUR BONES AND MUSCLES AND YOU TURNED INTO A GIANT BALL OF FLESH.


THE FIRST USE OF THIS TREATMENT ON AOYAMA HAD FAILED
HE GREW TO BIG

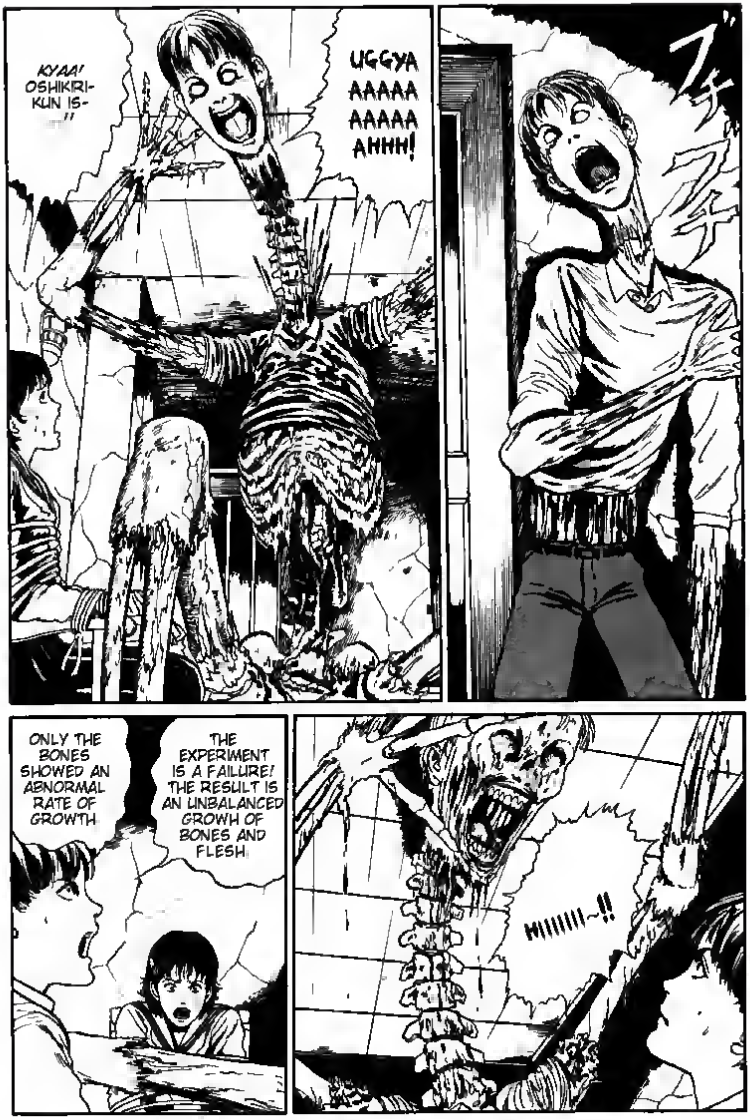
THE TWO BEFORE APPEARED TO MELT AFTER.
THERE MUST BE A PROBLEM WITH THE MIXTURE OF THE DRUG...
IF ANYONE CHOOSES TO ENTER THIS WORLD, THEY ARE THROWN INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION...
IN OTHER WORDS, TO YOUR WORLD.
LET ME GO HOME...
PLEASE STOP...
THE TIMING IS PERFECT. I WAS THINKING OF TESTING THE NEW DRUG MIXTURE ON YOU.
AND THAT IS WHEN YOU ENTERED THIS WORLD.
THIS TIME I EXPECT THERE TO BE AN INCREASE IN HEIGHT.
STOP!!
NO...!
DON'T WORRY.

ドン!
STOP!!
W-WHY YOU
ドサッ
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
SO YOU FINALLY ENTERED THIS WORLD

WHAT ...?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
THIS IS YOUR ALTERNATE DIMENSION
...
THEN THIS PLACE IS ...
OSHIKIRI-KUN, LOOK OUT!!
WHEN DID I ENTER THIS DIMENSION?!
CH-
SINCE MY DOPPLEGANGER IS HERE, I'LL JUST EXPERIMENT ON YOU!
C-COME ON ...

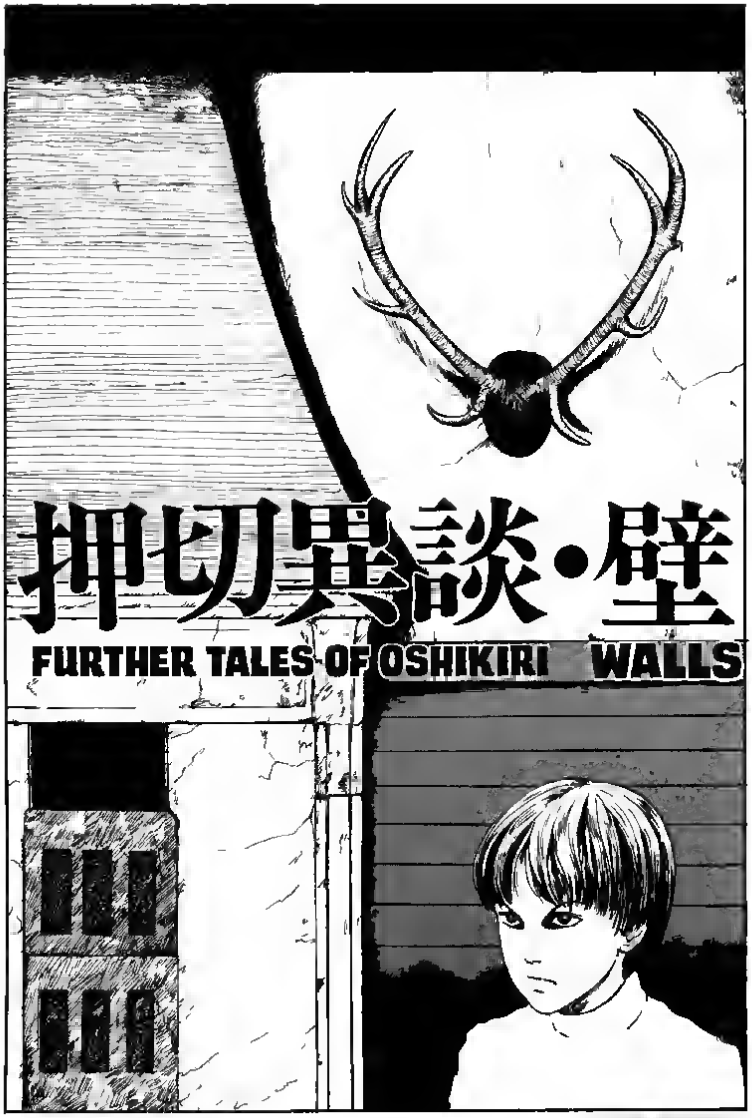
BRING IT!
ガッ
ダッ
COME ANY CLOSER
IF YOU
HAH HAH ...

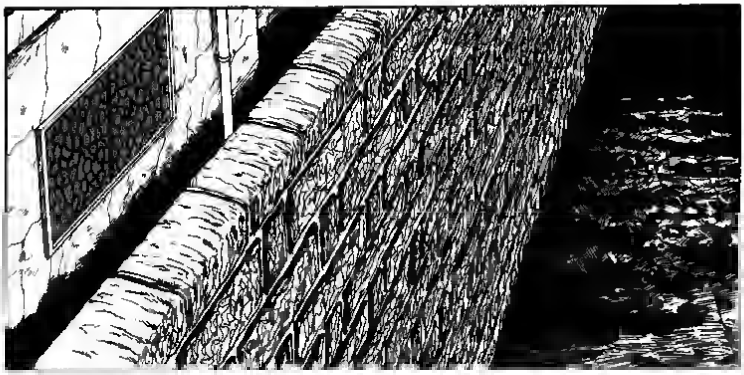
KYAA!! OSHIKIRI-KUN!!
AAAHH!!
GAH .....!
UH ...
Y-YOU BAST-ARD!

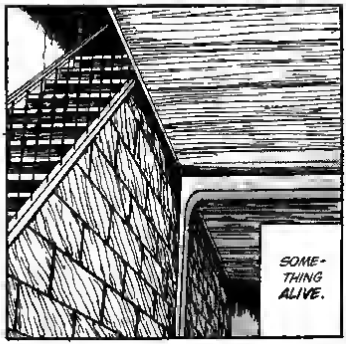

KYAA! OSHIKIRI-KUN IS-!!
UGGYA AAAAA AAAAA AHHH!
ブチブチ
ONLY THE BONES SHOWED AN ABNORMAL RATE OF GROWTH
THE EXPERIMENT IS A FAILURE! THE RESULT IS AN UNBALANCED GROWTH OF BONES AND FLESH
HIIIIII~!!

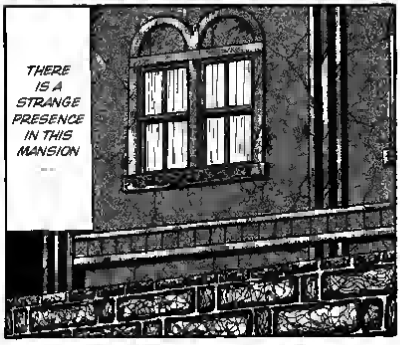
YOU MONSTER !!
DEMON!
CHANGE OSHIKIRI-KUN BACK!!
NO--! LET OSHIKIRI-KUN GO!
I'M OSHIKIRI!
FUJI-KUN! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
NO! STAY BACK!
GUU GUU ... YOU BRAT! DON'T FEEL SO RELIEVE JUST BECAUSE YOU KILLED ME!
THERE IS MORE THAN ONE ALTERNATE DIMENSION!
NO WAY
EH ?!
AND INJECTED HIM WITH IT
IT'S TRUE WHEN HE CHARGED AT ME I SNATCHED THE SYRINGE FROM HIM.
NOW THE ONE WHO CREATED THAT DRUG HAS BECOME A MONSTER

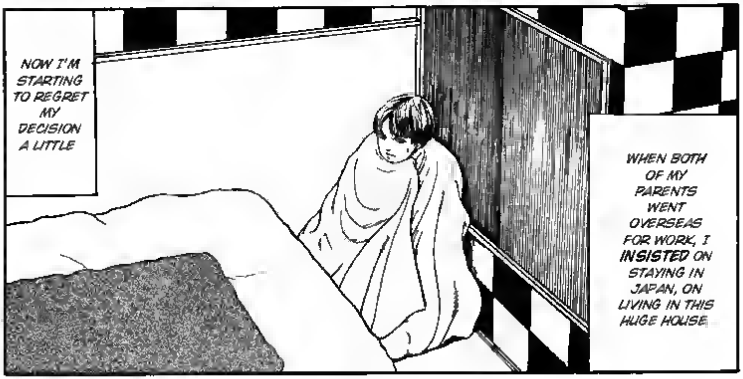
UGGGH YAAAA AAAHH!
UGH ...
ドロ
THERE ARE COUNTLESS ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS!
DON'T FORGET THERE ARE COUNTLESS OTHER OSHIKIRIS ... EVEN MORE VISCIOUS OSHIKIRIS ...
ビシャ
WILL WE EVER RETURN TO OUR WORLD ...?
OSHIKIRI-KUN ...


押切異談・壁
FURTHER TALES OF OSHIKIRI WALLS




SOME-
THING
ALIVE.


THERE
IS A
STRANGE
PRESENCE
IN THIS
MANSION
...

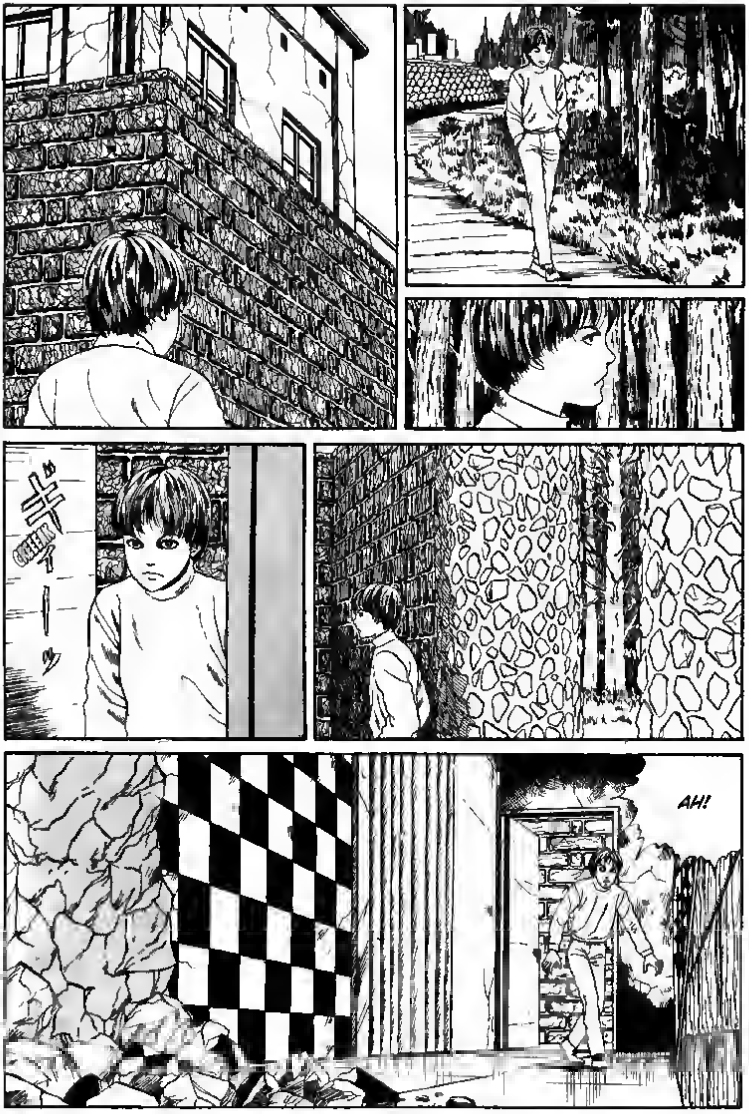

NOW I'M
STARTING
TO REGRET
MY
DECISION
A LITTLE
WHEN BOTH
OF MY
PARENTS
WENT
OVERSEAS
FOR WORK, I
INSISTED ON
STAYING IN
JAPAN, ON
LIVING IN THIS
HUGE HOUSE

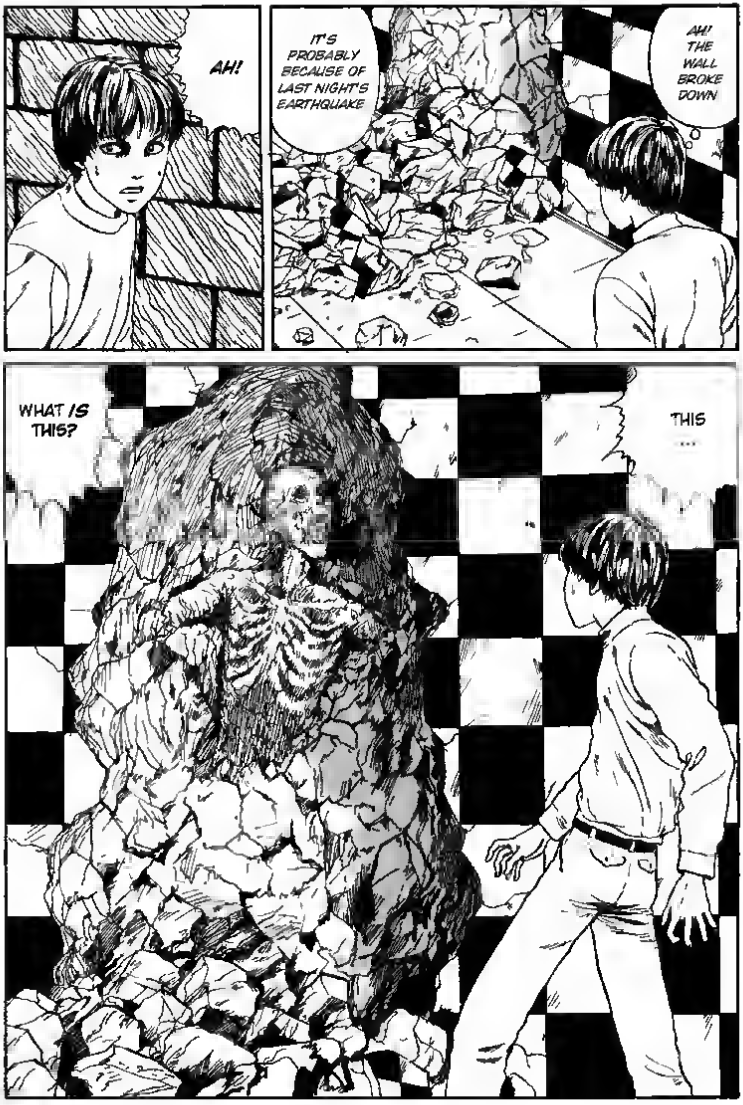
ヒタ
ヒタ
ヒタ
I'VE BEGUN TO SUFFER FROM BOTH VISUAL AND AUDITORY HALLUC-INATIONS
TENDS TO ALTER YOUR MIND
LIVING IN THIS MANSION ALL ALONE
ギ CREAK ッ
ざわ BRUSH
ざわ BRUSH
ざわ BRUSH
ざわ BRUSH
ざわ
ざわ
AAH!!
ざわ BRUSH
ざわ BRUSH
ざわ BRUSH
ざわ BRUSH
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
THE NOISES
I CAN HEAR THOSE NOISES AGAIN!
LIKE A WORM INFESTATION - IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE ARE INSECTS CRAWLING THROUGH THE WALLS! WHAT IS THIS DAMN NOISE?

IF YOUR CURRENT SITUATION GOES ON LIKE THIS, I CAN'T, AS YOUR COUSIN, JUST SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING ABOUT IT.
TORU, LIKE I SAID BEFORE, ALL OF THESE ARE CAUSED BY LONELINESS. ARE YOU GONNA CONTINUE LIVING IN THAT MANSION ALL ALONE?
HALLUC-INATIONS AGAIN, HUH?
SO ARE YOU OK WITH THIS?
ABOUT MY HALLUCINATIONS I ONLY TOLD YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE MY BIG BRO, TAKAYUKI
DON'T TELL ANY-ONE
FINE, BUT ...
MY FATHER CAN TALK TO YOUR PARENTS ABOUT THIS SO YOU CAN STAY WITH US
!
GOTTE
TORU, DON'T YOU SOMETIMES TALK TO YOUR PARENTS OVER THE PHONE?
YEAH, SOMETIMES BUT THEY REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT I DO HERE-
UH-HUH

グラグラグラ
EARTH-QUAKE!
UWAH!!
グラグラグラ
TORU, GET UNDER THE TABLE!
グラ
ガシャン

WHEW!
AH! IT STOPPED. THAT WAS A BIG ONE!
...
KRRRK
KRRRK
YEAH, WE'RE FINE, MOM
TAKAYUKI! LITTLE TORU! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
I WILL
AND PLEASE CONSIDER MOVING HERE WITH US, TORU
ANYWAY, TOMORROW IS SUNDAY, SO YOU CAN SLEEP OVER TONIGHT
THAT WAS QUITE A SHOCK!
OKAY..


ギィーッ
AH!


AH!
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF LAST NIGHT'S EARTHQUAKE
AH! THE WALL BROKE DOWN
WHAT IS THIS?
THIS ...

IT'S A CORPSE ...
SOMEONE WAS BURIED INSIDE THIS WALL?!
WHO ON EARTH?
IT LOOKS REALLY OLD
NO! LOOKS MORE LIKE A FOSSIL THAN A MUMMY
IT'S BEEN MUMM-IFIED
IT'S STUCK INSIDE THE WALL
IT WAS THEN THAT I GOT DEEPLY ENGAGED IN SEARCHING FOR MY OLD FAMILY RECORDS
I WONDER IF MY ANCESTORS SEALED DEAD BODIES INSIDE WALLS
PERHAPS I WOULD FIND A CLUE

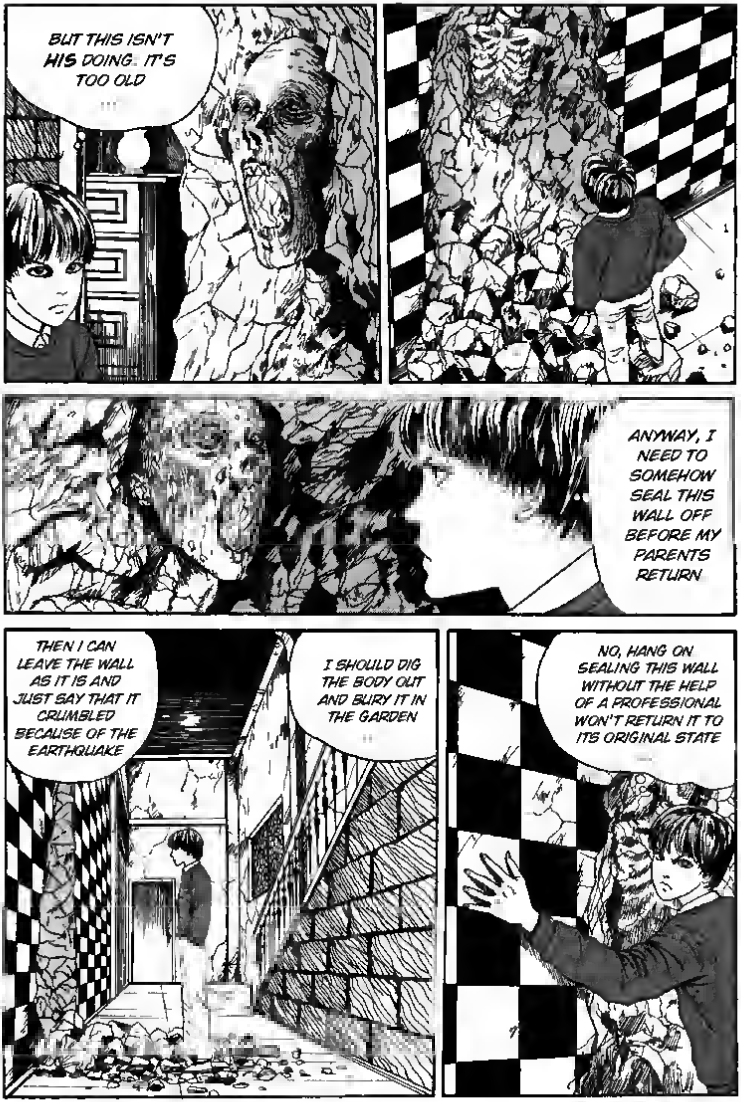
OH?
THEN PERHAPS THIS BURYING HAS NOTHING TO WITH MY FAMILY.
ASSUMING THAT THIS MANSION WAS BUILT BEFORE MY FAMILY SETTLED HERE,
IT SAYS THAT MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS DUTCH, BUT
THIS PHOTO
WHAT'S THE STORY OF IT? IT'S PRETTY OLD, BUT
WHAT IS THIS GUY DOING? HALF OF HIS BODY IS HANGING OUT OF THE WALL!

THIS IS THE WALL IN THAT PHOTO
A PICTURE IS HUNG ON THE SAME AREA FROM WHERE THE MAN WAS STICKING OUT
AND THEN THE PICTURE WAS PUT ON THE WALL TO HIDE HIS MUTILATED CORPSE
IF THAT MAN WAS DEAD, HIS UPPER BODY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BURIED, SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN CUT OFF
AT THAT MOMENT, A HORRIBLE THOUGHT OCCURED TO ME
SUCH A HORRIBLE THING
JUST CAN'T BE TRUE

サッ
ガタッ
THERE'S NO TRACE OF THE WALL BEING SEALED UP
THERE'S NOTHING HERE
BUT HOW? HALF OF HIS BODY WAS BURIED INSIDE THE WALL IN THAT PHOTO
AND I'M SURE THAT IT'S THE SAME WALL

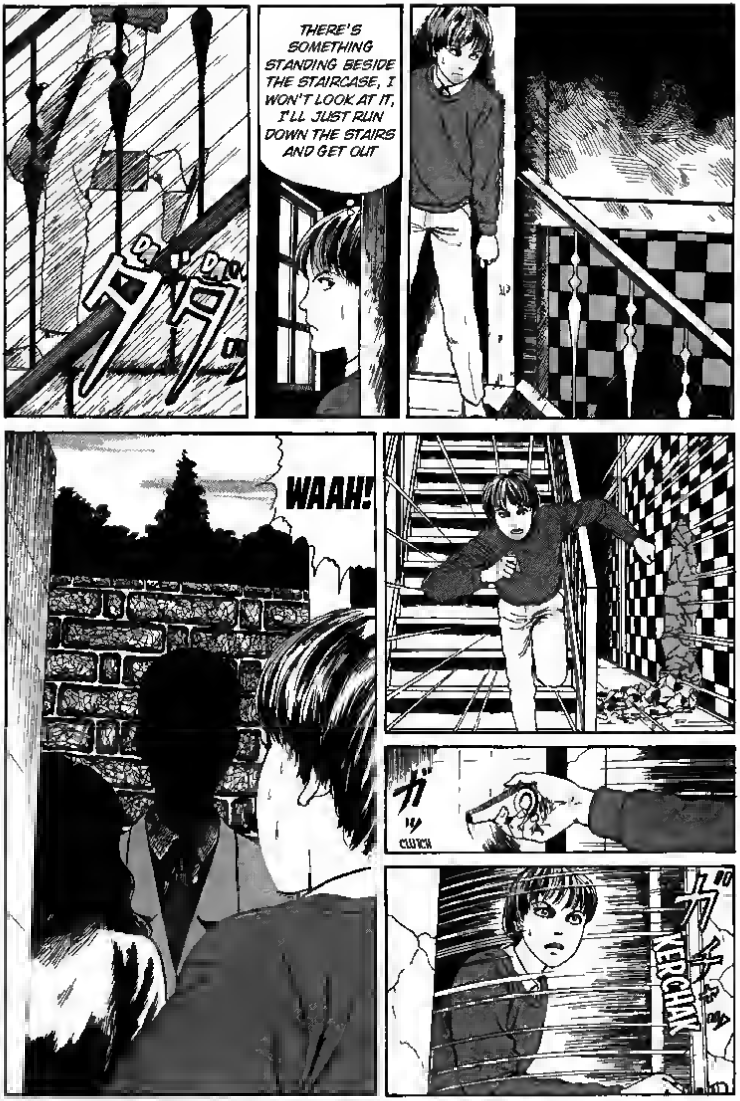
I SEE. ALRIGHT THEN
NOTHING NOTHING HAS HAPPEN-ED
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T SOUND SO GOOD, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO!
TORU, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PROPERLY?
YES, MOM.
NO
SO, NOTHING HAS HAPPENED THEN?
ALRIGHT TORU, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, BYE
OH YES, I CALLED TO TELL YOU THAT WE'LL BE COMING BACK NEXT WEEK AND WE'LL STAY FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS.
I SEE
UM, ACTUALLY, WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK?

THERE ARE OTHER BODIES BURIED THERE
IF THE COPS COME HERE TO INVESTIGATE, THEY'LL BE SURE TO CHECK THE GARDEN TOO
SPEAKING TO ANYONE ABOUT A CORPSE COMING OUT OF THE WALL IS A DUMB IDEA
FROM ANOTHER WORLD, A DIFFERENT 'ME' CAME FROM AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE AND BURIED THEM.
BUT NOT THIS CURRENT 'ME'. IT WAS ANOTHER 'ME'
THREE OF MY FRIENDS ARE BURIED THERE
AND
THE ONE WHO DID IT WAS ME.
AND THAT WAS WHEN I CAME TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE
THERE IS A GATEWAY TO ANOTHER WORLD INSIDE THIS MANSION
THAT WAS DEFINITELY NOT A HALLUCIN-ATION
I SAW IT MYSELF, UNDER THE TWILIGHT SKY, A GUY WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE ME LAID THOSE CORPSES IN THE GROUND


BUT THIS ISN'T HIS DOING. IT'S TOO OLD
...
ANYWAY, I NEED TO SOMEHOW SEAL THIS WALL OFF BEFORE MY PARENTS RETURN
THEN I CAN LEAVE THE WALL AS IT IS AND JUST SAY THAT IT CRUMBLED BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE
I SHOULD DIG THE BODY OUT AND BURY IT IN THE GARDEN
...
NO, HANG ON SEALING THIS WALL WITHOUT THE HELP OF A PROFESSIONAL WON'T RETURN IT TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE

カン
KANG
GYAA!!
GRAG
WHA...?
WHAT?!
THAT VOICE IS ...

BRUSH
BRUSH
BRUSH


THERE'S SOMETHING STANDING BESIDE THE STAIRCASE, I WON'T LOOK AT IT, I'LL JUST RUN DOWN THE STAIRS AND GET OUT
WAAH!
CLUTCH
KERCHAK

MOM? DAD?
WHAT'S WRONG, TORU-CHAN? YOU SEEM SURPRISED!
YOUR FATHER SAID HE REALLY MISSED YOU!
THERE WAS A CHANGE OF PLAN
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO COME BACK NEXT WEEK?
OH! SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO SHOCKED?
BUT WHEN THE WALL CRUMBLED, THERE WAS A CORPSE
ACTUALLY, PLEASE DON'T FREAK OUT ABOUT THIS
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
UM, UHHH, ACTUALLY
UHH
OH! TORU, WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THIS WALL OVER HERE?

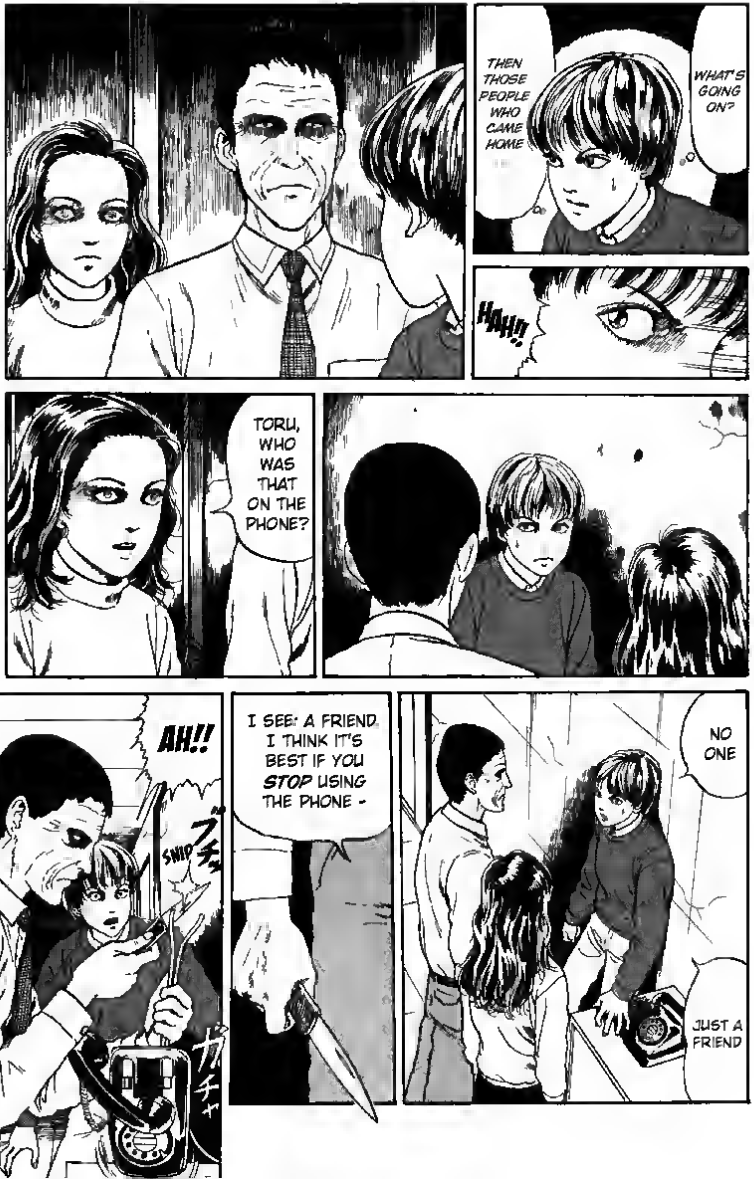
YOU SEE
...
TORU! DON'T MAKE SUCH WEIRD JOKES!
HUH?
TORU, YOU WERE JUST KIDDING!
LOOK, THERE'S NOTHING HERE
WHAT?! DON'T BE RIDICULOUS
...
AREN'T YOU?
TORU, YOU'RE JUST PULLING OUR LEGS
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT WAS RIGHT HERE
...
A FOSSILISED CORPSE!

OH TORU, MY POOR LITTLE CHILD.
YOU MUST BE TIRED.
COME ON, LET'S GO TO THE LIVING ROOM AND HAVE SOME TEA.
BUT IT WAS RIGHT HERE!
HOW DID IT DISAPP-EAR?!
NO! I'M NOT SEEING THINGS!
JUST WAIT AND SEE! I HAVE MORE PROOF!

INDEED, IT IS A VERY STRANGE PHOTO.
IS IT BAD?
I BURNED MYSELF.
UM, IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
OH, THIS?
HUH? MOM, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?
BUT I HAVE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS...
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A TRICK PHOTO.
IT WAS PROBABLY TAKEN IN YOUR GREAT-GRAND-FATHER'S TIME...
DID IT GET DISLODGED FROM THE WALL? NO, THERE WASN'T ANY TRACE OF IT...
EVEN SO, WHERE COULD THAT BODY HAVE GONE?

I'M GONNA BURN IT.
ANYWAY, I THINK IT'S BEST TO GET RID OF THIS PHOTO ...
I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF FLAMES!
STOP!
HONEY!
メラ
...
PLEASE, CALM DOWN
YUKA, I'M SO SORRY
DARLING
MOM!
I'M SORRY, I'LL PUT IT OUT

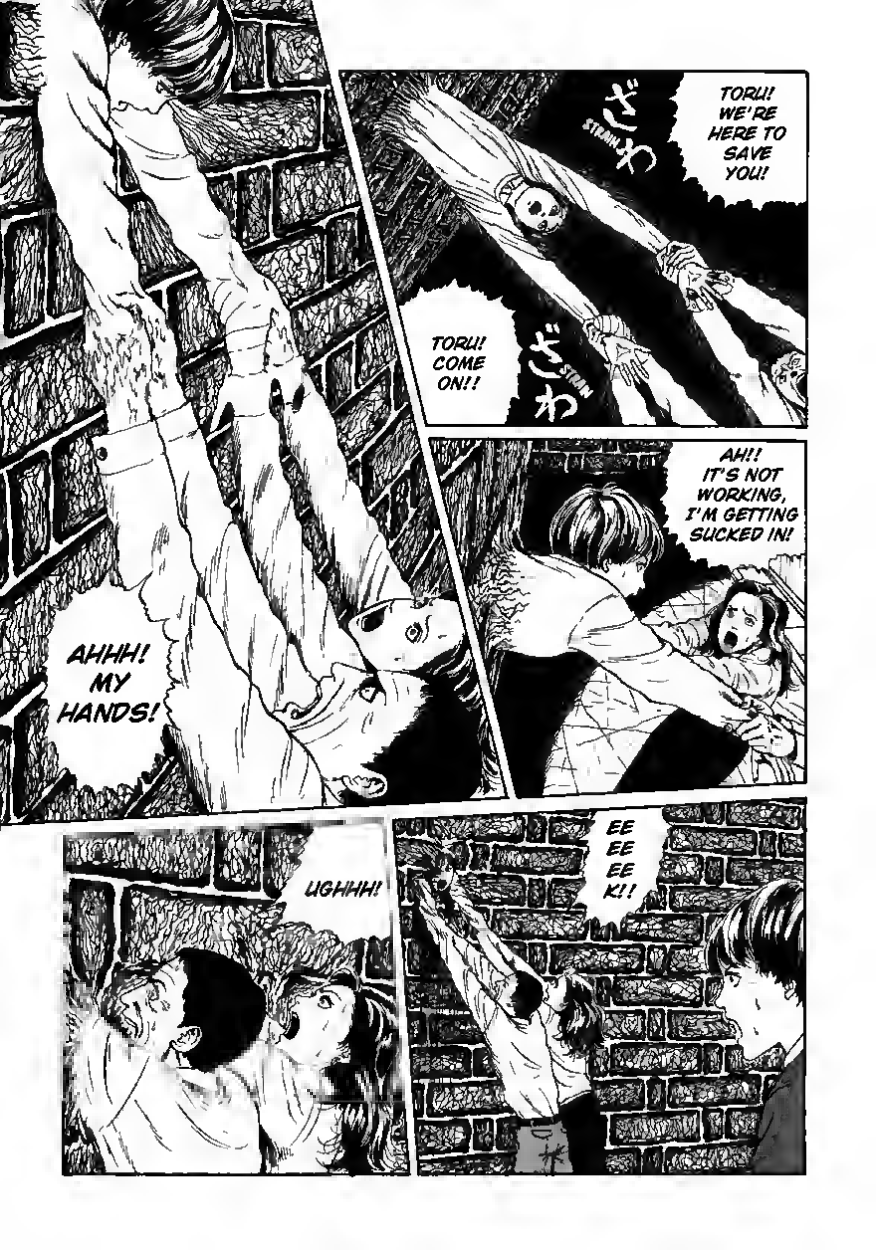
RIIIING リーン
SOME THING'S NOT RIGHT, EVEN MOM AND DAD ARE ACTING STRANGE
TORU, WOULD YOU PLEASE ANSWER THE PHONE?
OKAY
RIIIIING リーン
YES! WHAT IS IT? WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING LIKE THAT?
WHA-?! MOM??
IT'S ME, MOM
AH, TORU?
ガチャ KCHAK
THIS IS THE OSHIKIRI RESI-DENCE
HELLO
ガチャッ
WE WON'T BE COMING BACK ANYTIME SOON BUT I KNOW YOU CAN HANDLE YOURSELF
REMEMBER TO EAT YOUR MEALS, BYE
TORU, ARE YOU LISTENING? I KNOW I SAID THAT WE'LL RETURN TO JAPAN NEXT WEEK,
BUT YOUR FATHER IS REALLY VERY BUSY WITH HIS WORK, SO

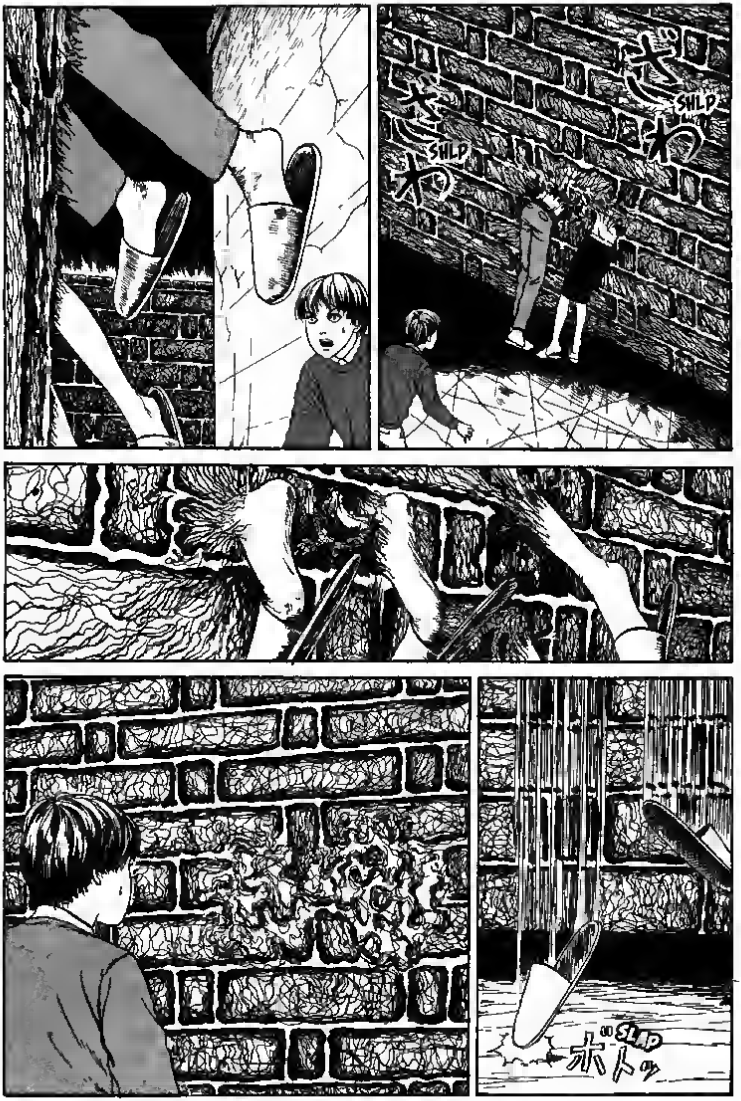

THEN THOSE PEOPLE WHO CAME HOME
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HHH!!
TORU, WHO WAS THAT ON THE PHONE?
NO ONE
JUST A FRIEND
I SEE: A FRIEND. I THINK IT'S BEST IF YOU STOP USING THE PHONE -
AH!!
SWIP
ブチッ
ガチャ

WHO WE REALLY ARE?
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WE'VE PASSED THROUGH IT MANY TIMES IN THE PAST THE OTHER WORLD IS JUST LIKE THIS ONE
WE LIVED IN A MANSION EXACTLY LIKE THIS ONE
WE CAME FROM THE ALTERNATE DIMENSION.
HE HE HE
THERE'S A PORTAL TO THAT DIMENSION RIGHT INSIDE THIS MANSION
THAT'S RIGHT: WE AREN'T YOUR REAL PARENTS
OUR MANSION WAS REDUCED TO RUBBLE AND ASH. IT WAS BURNED DOWN BY THE FLAMES
WE LOST OUR HOME.
BUT TWO DAYS AGO THERE WAS A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE IN OUR WORLD.

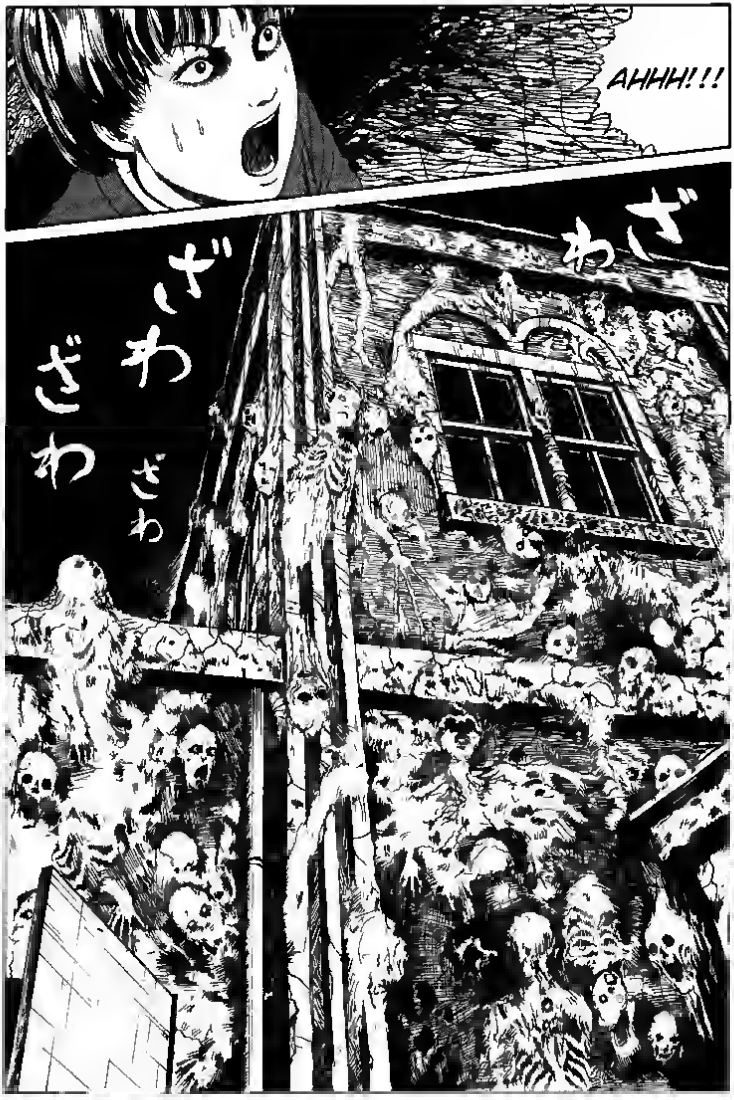
SO...
YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS A BIG PROBLEM.
SOON, OUR ONLY SON WILL JOIN US. HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU.
BUT THE MANSION IN THIS WORLD IS STILL STANDING.
EEEEK!!
DARLING, THAT'S TORU'S VOICE!
IT'S COMING FROM OUT-SIDE!
WHAT'S HAPP-ENING?
TORU!!
HELP ME!!
HUH?

TORU!
HELP ME!
TORU!!
SLAM
AH! DAMN IT!! HE'S FAILED TO CROSS THE DIMENSIONS. HE'S MERGING WITH THE WALL! IF HE'S ABSORBED BY IT, HE'S FINISHED!
TORU!
I.... I GET IT NOW!
HURRY! CAN'T YOU SEE TORU IS BEING SUCKED AWAY?!
PULL HIM OUT HONEY! GRAB HIS HAND, QUICKLY!
BUT...
MERGING TWO TIMES IN A ROW


AHHH! MY HANDS!
TORU! COME ON!!
ざわ
STRAIN
TORU! WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU!
ざわ
STRAIN
AH!! IT'S NOT WORKING, I'M GETTING SUCKED IN!
UGHHH!
EE EE EE K!!


SHLP
SHLP
SLIP
ポトッ

THE MAN IN THE PHOTO, THE CORPSE INSIDE THE WALL, WERE THEY ALL FROM THE OTHER DIMENSION?
WHAT THE HELL?
ALL THREE OF THEM GOT SUCKED INTO THE WALL
THEY WERE ALL LIVING INSIDE THE WALLS
AND THEY'RE CRAWLING INSIDE OF IT!
THE STRANGE PRESENCE IN THIS MANSION
THE CRAWLING NOISES THAT I HEAR AT NIGHT
IT WAS THE SOUND OF MOVEMENT THROUGH THE WALLS
SO THE VOICE OF THAT CORPSE
JUST HOW MANY OF THESE BEINGS HAVE PASSED THROUGH TO THIS MANSION ALREADY?


AHHH!!!
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PENPALS

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